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Thursday, December 24th 2015

Hope for homeless is rough sleeper's mission

BY JACK DIXON
jack@londonweeklynews.co.uk

A FORMER rough sleeper who escaped a nightmare life on the streets has set up a charity in west London to help the homeless.

Rickesh Advani, who sold the *Big Issue* in Covent Garden found himself living on the streets at the age of 21 after running up huge gambling debts.

But five years later, as the founder and director of his own not-

for-profit company, he hopes to help other homeless people find their way out of poverty.

Rickesh, now 26, set up Never Leaving People earlier this year, after harnessing the power of positive thinking to turn his life around.

He says he wants to give west London's rough sleepers the skills, support and self-belief they need to change their lives.

"We are all, at some stage, only one pay cheque away from being where some of those people are now – but we can be so quick to overlook them," he said.

FULL STORY, PAGE 4
SHELTER SHOCK AT
CHRISTMAS, PAGE 5

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■ **LOVE SONGS:** Hammersmith's Lyric theatre is well known for its Christmas productions and over the years has gained an enviable reputation for cool and contemporary takes on some of the classic fairy tales. This year's show, *Cinderella*, is no different, with the fable of the downtrodden stepdaughter having been given a trendy lift by up and coming playwright Tom Wells. Pictured are Cinders, played with aplomb by Krystal Dockery, and Prince Charming, played by Karl Queensborough.

TALK OF THE TOWN, PAGE 17

SEASONAL GREETINGS TO ALL OUR READERS AND ADVERTISERS

INSIDE THIS WEEK

Nearly 90% of hoverboards are unsafe, say safety experts [PAGE 3](#)

'Don't delay Heathrow decision, scrap expansion plan now' [PAGE 6](#)

Radical shake-up proposed for iconic Notting Hill Carnival [PAGE 8](#)

Ration-book Christmas: how we celebrated in 1945 London [PAGE 9](#)

Cause a stink if you want smelly food banned on the Tube [PAGE 10](#)

How to have yourself a right royal Christmas, Windsor style [PAGE 14](#)

Pantomime family favourites and intimate festive classics [PAGE 17](#)

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Nick Paget-Brown, Leader of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea



Seasonal toast to those who work for us over Christmas

CHRISTMAS is almost upon us and I hope that all readers, and everyone associated with the *Kensington & Chelsea News*, have a very merry and peaceful holiday.

Of course, while most of us are relaxing and enjoying our Christmas Day, hopefully with family and friends, there will be a small but dedicated group of people who are working to ensure others are able to appreciate this special time of year.

In our own council there will be staff working and on call. Often these officers work with some of our most vulnerable residents – be they children in the care of the council or elderly residents either in their own homes or care homes in the borough.

In an attempt to make one group of officers stand for all their colleagues, I'd like to let you know how some of our members of staff, who work in our two residential children's

homes, will be spending their Christmas. Clearly, for some children, spending Christmas with their family is, unfortunately, not an option.

However, our staff will be doing everything they can to make Christmas Day as special as they can for the youngsters in our care. So, from giving presents to cooking a full Christmas dinner, these dedicated people will be spending time away from their own families to ensure the children we look after have as festive a day as possible, and I thank them for it, as I thank all other staff across the council who are on duty.

They join many others in councils across the country and of course the marvellous people who work in our emergency services, NHS and other vital services.

So, while we're catching up with TV box sets, watching a blockbuster film or entertaining the children, they are all making

sure that things continue to run smoothly, or if something goes wrong, they are available to try to help put it right.

And of course, these paid staff are joined by a veritable army of volunteers who embrace the true spirit of Christmas by giving up their time to help those in need.

They will be working in shelters for the homeless or on the other end of a phone to be a good Samaritan for those who find themselves in despair at what is for most of us a time of celebration. And I'd like to give a special mention to all our foster carers who do so much to provide young people with a stable family home.

So, my sincerest thanks to all who forego their Christmas pleasures so that we can celebrate in our various churches, pull crackers, tell terrible jokes, watch the Queen's speech, follow the yellow brick road or enjoy *The Great Escape*.



TELEVISION'S *Countdown* presenter Rachel Riley opened the NatWest Family Fun Zone, a festive family pop-up created to raise funds for Evelina London Children's Hospital. Until December 24 families are invited to visit the feature at the Winter at Southbank Center each day from 10am to 4pm – to step out of the cold and enjoy a host of free activities for children. The fun zone offers free face-painting and magic shows, workshops and storytelling, all to raise vital funds for Evelina London Children's Hospital. Evelina London is the second largest provider of children's services in London, caring for over 55,000 young patients in the last year alone. All funds raised by the fun zone will be donated to the hospital to help provide life-saving equipment, life-changing research and better facilities. Families can also spread wishes of cheer and hope this festive season, by leaving messages for Evelina London children inside the installation. Speaking of her role as spokesperson, Rachel said: 'I'm honoured to be able to help NatWest in supporting Evelina London Children's Hospital at this special time of year.'

Fantastic response in our first year

WITH this being our last edition before Christmas, it gives me the opportunity to thank our readers and advertisers for their wonderful support during the first year of publishing the *London Weekly News* group of titles.

The response has been fantastic, demonstrating that central and West London want a local paper that reflects the achievements and aspirations of those who live and work in the most exciting city in the world.

We will return on January 7 so it just remains for me to wish you all a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Philip Evans
Editor



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JOINT MANAGING DIRECTORS

Karen Sheppard

0208 768 4903

Philip Evans (Editor)

07796 951991

Editorial email:

editorial@londonweeklynews.co.uk

News Editor Geoff Baker 07864 992274

Reporter Jack Dixon 07973 565078

Sport - Tony MacDonald 07711 169427

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St Cuthbert youngsters' Christingle

By Ibrahim and Albert
Year five, St Cuthbert with
St Matthias Primary School

THE children, staff and governors of St Cuthbert School in Earls Court attended their St Cuthbert church for a Christingle service and sang songs such as: *We Three Kings, Little Donkey, Silent Night, Lying on a Bed of Straw, Jingle Bell Rock/Rocking Around the Christmas Tree*.

Years five and six sang *O Holy Night* as a special song and they sang it beautifully.

A Christingle is an orange with a red ribbon around it and some sweets or dry fruit on a stick with a candle on top and a foil star. The candle means the light of the world, the orange is our world, the ribbon is the love and blood of Christ, the foil star is the Bethlehem star and the dried fruits and sweets are symbols of God's creations.

The whole school collected for a charity to help children have a better Christmas.

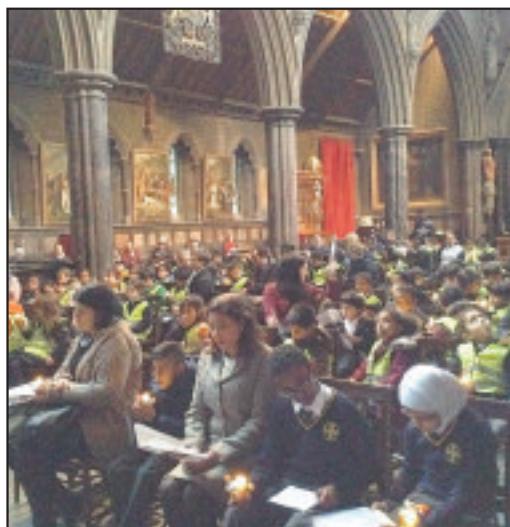
The two programme leaders, Ayah and Mehdi from year six, were leading the Christingle service by announcing the song names. Caleb and Kawthar from year six read prayers they had written.

Father Paul the parish priest told the children of St Cuthbert about the meaning of Christingle and was also hosting the service. Mr Grant the music teacher accompanied the children with all the songs on his guitar.

The parents were also involved by joining in and they enjoyed our presentation. Some of the parents had been very busy making the Christingles for the previous two days.



■ TIME FOR WORSHIP: Pupils of Earls Court's St Cuthbert with St Matthias Primary School come together at St Cuthbert's Church for a Christingle service – and celebrate the Christmas season and the historic meaning of the festival. Parents, staff and school governors joined for carols and seasonal songs.



Experts warn parents – 'almost 90% of hoverboards are unsafe'

BY GEOFF BAKER
geoff@londonweeklynews.co.uk

WEST London council safety chiefs are urgently warning parents pestered to buy hoverboards for Christmas that they could be putting deadly machines in their children's stockings.

In a dramatic public safety move, Kensington and Chelsea Council has issued an official alert that almost 90 per cent of the imported "toys" are unsafe.

The council's environmental health chief has warned parents "to be extremely cautious" about buying hoverboards as "there are real safety concerns" that they can burst into flames.

The warning follows swoops on shops in West London by safety officers who have ordered that 42 hoverboards be taken off sale from stores in Hammersmith, Fulham, Kensington and Chelsea. Leading retailers Tesco, Amazon, John Lewis and Argos have all suspended sales of the controversial self-balancing scooters and the Retail Ombudsman has called on all hoverboard sellers to offer a returns amnesty by waiving restrictions on refunds.

The hoverboards, which can sell from £200 to £350, are powered by rechargeable batteries and are controlled by riders who stand on them and balance forwards or backwards to regulate the movement.

"Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea Trading Standards officers are warning people to be aware of hoverboards which could pose a fire risk while charging," said a council spokesman. "We are aware that hoverboards are set to be the Christmas gadget that everyone wants this Christmas, there has been a huge increase in sales after celebrities and sports stars have been seen using them. But trading standards officers have been visiting local shops in the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea and have taken a number of unsafe hoverboards off sale following recent tests carried out by officers in other boroughs."

Tests have shown that some hoverboards imported into the UK were unsafe. UK trading standards has said that more than 17,000 hoverboards imported from beyond the EU have been examined in recent weeks, of which over 15,000–88 per cent – failed basic safety checks.

Faults on some models include:

- Potential overheating and fire hazard from the lithium battery overcharging
- Risks of electrocution due to standard mains plugs
- Risk of fire as some of the mains plugs do not contain fuses or have sub-standard fuses.

Councillor Tim Ahern, the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea's Cabinet Member for Environmental Health, said: "These hoverboards are in great demand, particularly with Christmas

coming. Consumers have to be extremely cautious when buying this type of present as there are real safety concerns regarding some models."

"The Chartered Trading Standards Institute has provided good advice to anyone considering buying a hoverboard. If you're going to buy one do so from a reputable shop or website and always check for the CE mark."

The council is warning parents: "If you have any doubts about what you have bought please be careful and contact Trading Standards via the Citizens Advice Consumer Service line on 03454 040506."

The council has also issued a must-check list for parents considering buying a hoverboard for their children.

- Always buy from reputable sources and stores.
- The plug must be a three-pin UK plug.
- The plug must have a fuse.
- You must be given information about the importer and/or manufacturer, including an address.
- Instructions must be in English.
- Advice about safe use must be included (for example who is the intended user – age or weight).
- Don't charge your product either overnight or if you are going out. Some boards have been found that did not have a charging cut-off.
- Does the item have a CE mark – be wary as these can

sometimes be faked. One way to spot fraudulent CE markings is to check the logo. Sometimes the wrong logo is used entirely, but if it looks correct, check the middle line of the 'E', as it should be shorter than the other parts.

■ You can't use the device on public roads or pavements – only on private land with the landowner's permission.

The Retail Ombudsman Dean Dunham said: "I urge UK retailers to take the responsible step of removing unsafe hoverboards from sale. Consumers who have already purchased a hoverboard should contact the retailer and for their written assurance that it's safe and in particular that it has a compliant plug with a fuse."

The ombudsman has also warned retailers that they could be held responsible for any injuries suffered should the self-balancing scooters malfunction or catch on fire.

He said: "I would urge UK retailers to take the responsible step of removing unsafe hoverboards from sale or face the risk of the full force of the Consumer Protection Act, under which the retailer can be held liable for any injuries caused by unsafe goods."

The fire risk warnings come in the wake of a tragedy in Alperton, North West London, last week when a 15-year-old boy using a hoverboard died after he was in collision with a bus.



Beware online crime attacks

A CAMPAIGN launched by Action Fraud, the City of London Police and Get Safe Online is warning of the dangers of online crime this holiday season.

Figures from last Christmas show that people and businesses reported losing nearly £16.5 million to online fraudsters through online shopping and auction fraud. That's a hefty 42 per cent increase compared with the 2013 festive period.

Mobile phones are a particularly common item bought and sold by fraudsters.

People reported trying to get good deals on some of the most popular smart phone models, but what they thought was going to be a bargain never arrived, thanks to cruel cons that left them without presents to give on Christmas Day.

Other victims reported being defrauded whilst trying to buy footwear, clothing, watches, gaming consoles, computers, furniture and home electrics.

Police national co-ordinator for economic crime, commander Chris Greany, says the fact that victims lost 42 per cent more money last year compared to the year before suggests fraudsters are "taking every opportunity they can during the festive period".

People can report frauds to Action Fraud, the UK's national fraud and cyber crime reporting centre, by calling 0300 123 20 40 or by visiting www.actionfraud.police.uk

Carol concert raises £23,000

MORE than £23,000 was raised for the Alzheimer's Society at a carol concert hosted by TV presenter Ruth Langford and attended by 600 guests in West London last week.

The event at St Paul's Church, Knightsbridge, on December 15, lifted the total raised for Carols by Candlelight London to £59,000 over the last three years.

It included festive readings from Sir Tony Robinson, Lesley Manville OBE and comedian Hugh Dennis, as well as musical performances from leading chamber choir Vasari Singers. There was also a performance from an Alzheimer's Society Singing for the Brain group from Wandsworth.

The event helped all people with dementia in attendance through dementia-friendly signs, stewards to guide people to seats and volunteers being briefed to ensure that they knew some of the key things to look out for when working with someone with dementia.

Tim McLachlan, Alzheimer's Society Operations Director for Greater London, said: "It was heartening to see people coming together to celebrate the season and raise vital funds."

'Overseas' flats back on market

THOUSANDS of London flats and apartments that have yet to be built could come back on to the property market over the next two years as foreign investors seek to cut their losses, according to new research.

In their latest report on the residential market, experts at estate agent Cluttons revealed that a large volume of new build stock was flowing on to the off-plan resales market, "as buyers, particularly those of an international flavour, try to exit the market as currency advantages, especially for those from emerging markets, fade".

Cluttons' head of research, Faisal Durran, told *The Guardian* he had seen figures suggesting 60,000 residential properties were due to be finished in London during 2016 and 2017, and said that about half of these were likely to be owned by overseas investors who would return them to the market.

Streetwise campaigner

Christmas in the capital will be a happy occasion for many – but not all. There are thousands of rough sleepers in London who are struggling to escape the grip of homelessness. Reporter Jack Dixon met one man who is trying to help them



RICKESH Advani knows what it's like to be homeless. He lived rough on the streets of London for 18 months after a gambling addiction wrecked his career and saw him accumulate debts of nearly £300,000.

With no home, he sold the *Big Issue* in Covent Garden by day and slept on the streets at night. Now, having turned his life round, he is helping others escape the same nightmare, having set up a charity to help the homeless.

Rickesh found himself living on the streets at the age of 21 after running up huge gambling debts.

But five years later, as the founder and director of his own not-for-profit company, he hopes to help other homeless people find their way out of poverty.

Rickesh, now 26, set up Never Leaving People earlier this year, after harnessing the power of positive thinking to turn his life around.

He says he wants to give west London's rough sleepers the skills, support and self-belief they need to change their lives.

"We are all, at some stage, only one pay cheque away from being where some of those people are now – but we can be so quick to overlook them," he said.

"Those individuals should not be left in the shadows. They should be given the chance to shine."

Rickesh runs the charity from his flat in Earl's Court, offering a tailored programme of support for vulnerable people across west London.

He and a small team of colleagues provide counselling and advice, as well as skills training to help homeless people "attain and maintain" employment and accommodation.

The scheme also encourages individuals to give back to their community, whether by volunteering for local charities or visiting residential homes to talk to the elderly.

Never Leaving People has so far helped around 30 people on the path out of homelessness.

But Rickesh says he has big ambitions to

develop the fledgling organisation, which currently relies on grants and community donations to continue its work.

"A lot of people know there is support available to them but find it hard to access," he said. "We work with individuals in every single area so that they do not just attain but maintain employment, to give themselves the best chance to be socially sustainable long term."

"It is great to see how willing people are to give back, to see them go from 'I cannot achieve anything' to 'I can do this'."

"Everyone has their own skill sets and they should all be nurtured so that they can become productive members of society."

Born in Stanmore, Rickesh threw himself into work from a young age. At 16 he was an office junior at a conference company and by the time he was 18 he was acting manager at a branch of Bradford & Bingley.

He fell on hard times, however, after leaving the bank and developing a gambling addiction that cost him almost £300,000.

He began selling the *Big Issue* in Covent Garden and spent around 18 months sleeping rough.

It was an awful situation, he says, but one that helped him discover the value of supporting others.

"That was the start of me turning my life around," he said. "I wanted to do something different and help people."

"I thought, I cannot change the world but I can change somebody's world – and that is enough."

The *Big Issue* made a short film about Rickesh while he was working as a seller in Westminster, and a chance meeting led to a recruitment agency job.

After finding his feet he set up a property management company to help rough sleepers find accommodation, before launching the charity Never Leaving People this year.

He says he wants the organisation to function as a signpost to other support agencies, and hopes to open up new funding streams to further develop in 2016.

"The thing that makes London so amazing is the myriad people who live here – it is a spectrum of colour," he added.

"But sometimes we are willing to overlook someone just because of the way they look. That is sad because we are missing something beautiful."

"It is about personal development. There is growth room within all of us."

For more information on the work Rickesh is doing, you can visit the website www.neverleavingpeople.co.uk or call 020 7101 5091.



CAMPAIGNER: Rickesh Advani set up the charity Never Leaving People to combat homelessness in London.

HOMELESSNESS IN LONDON

■ Homelessness in London has risen 38 per cent amid multi-million-pound cuts to town hall grants for preventing rough sleeping, figures out today reveal.

■ The number of households accepted as homeless by all London boroughs rose from 12,720 in 2011/12 to 17,530 in 2014/15, according to House of Commons Library data. The rise is 12 per cent up on the 2012/13 figure of 15,660.

■ Central government's austerity drive has resulted in a cut to the Homeless Prevention Grant given to London town halls by £5,171,000 since 2012.

■ The biggest reason (39 per cent) for homelessness was the end of an assured shorthold tenancy, up from 2,370 in 2011/12 to 6,790 in 2014/15.

■ The charity **Never Leaving People** says: 'The housing crisis experienced in London today has been steadily getting worse with numbers of rough sleepers exploding over the past years. Currently it is perhaps our city's greatest challenge. Once in this situation, knowing there is somewhere to turn where support is available can be a vital lifeline. NLP is here to offer practical help to those struggling with homelessness. We can assist individually with the sourcing of benefits, by

offering a residential address for applicants and guidance throughout the form filling process. We aim to facilitate subsidised meals, and offer assistance contacting other specialised services, looking at rough sleepers' wellbeing and organising health checks, all while considering every option available, from short term to long term residence.'



Prince William fights to be heard on the big issue close to his heart: homelessness – Page 13

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BY LWN REPORTER
editorial@londonweeklynews.co.uk

LONDON councils have been inundated with over 27,000 requests for help from people on the brink of homelessness in the last year, new analysis from Shelter reveals.

The shocking findings, based on government statistics, show that in the last year more than 17,000 households in the capital ultimately lost their struggle and were made officially homeless.

The figures come as no surprise to housing and homelessness charity Shelter, whose advisers have been inundated with calls for help.

In the last year alone, the number of calls to Shelter's free helpline from London reached more than 113,000. And one in three of the calls they were able to answer came from people who faced losing their home within a month.

The charity is calling on the public for urgent support, as its advisers brace themselves for even more calls this Christmas. With many councils feeling the pressure of England's affordable housing shortage, having a Shelter adviser to support families can make the difference between them losing their home and keeping it.

Campbell Robb, Shelter's chief executive said: "It's truly devastating to hear that so many people – including families with children – are teetering on the brink of homelessness.

"It's heart-breaking to imagine one child waking up homeless and in unstable temporary accommodation on Christmas morning, yet we know that over 100,000 children across the country are facing exactly that fate. Sadly, the combination of our affordable housing shortage and cuts to welfare means that more and more parents are finding themselves struggling to keep a stable roof over their children's heads.

"That's why we desperately need the public's support this

■ PLEASE HELP: Staff and clients from St Mungo's Broadway project in Hammersmith and Fulham are asking people to support the charity with Woolly Hat Day on Friday, January 29.

Now in its sixth year, Woolly Hat Day sees thousands of people wearing beaded beanies, signed baseball caps and beautiful berets to help St Mungo's Broadway raise money for its work supporting homeless men and women across the country.

This west London hostel supports people with a long history of sleeping rough, including those with alcohol and drug dependency who wish to continue drinking and engage in a harm minimisation programme.

Howard Sinclair, St Mungo's Broadway Chief Executive, said: 'St Mungo's Broadway believes that everyone should

have a place to call home and be able to fulfil their hopes and ambitions.'

'Woolly Hat Day is a chance to show support for those without a home, or at risk of losing one.'

'With homelessness rising and Woolly Hat Day in its sixth year we want it to be even more of a success in raising funds and awareness of our work and the problems people face.'

'St Mungo's Broadway provides a bed and support to more than 2,500 people a night who are either homeless or at risk, and works to prevent homelessness, helping about 25,000 people a year.'



■ HOMELESS AT CHRISTMAS: This is the image of homeless charity Shelter's Christmas campaign.

Christmas, to help us be there so that no family has to fight homelessness on their own."

Shelter told the story of Francesca and her two children, who became homeless after her mother, who they were living with, unexpectedly became a guardian to two young family members and there was no longer room for her family. With nowhere else to go, they were forced to live in one room of a hostel for seven months. With the help of Shelter advisers, she was able to leave the hostel and create a better future for her children.

"When you're in a hostel it doesn't feel like you've got a future, you can't look ahead, you can't see a way out. It's like being in a big black hole and there's no light. Luckily, I spoke to an adviser from Shelter who eventually helped us find a better place to live. If it wasn't for them, I don't know where we'd be now – we're so grateful to have had their support."

To support Shelter's emergency Christmas appeal please visit www.shelter.org.uk or you can text SHELTER to 70060 to donate £3.



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An exciting stage in young careers

YOUNG performers from a theatre school in Fulham stepped into the spotlight at the Adelphi Theatre in London's West End.

Several pupils from Stagecoach Theatre Arts School performed a collection of songs, including Madonna's hit *Joan of Arc* in a show at the iconic theatre earlier this month.

Stagecoach principal Alison Bullman said: "The students have been practising for the show for weeks, and going to such a famous West End theatre was really exciting.

"I was so proud of the troupe and performing at a show in front of such a big audience is a great way to help boost their confidence."

The Fulham students were joined by around 280 performers from Stagecoach Theatre Arts schools across the country at the Adelphi on the Strand on Sunday, December 6.

The popular theatre is well known for hosting the hit West End show *Kinky Boots* earlier this year.

Stagecoach Theatre Arts Fulham is part of a network of more than 600 part-time Theatre Arts Schools worldwide. Early stages classes are available for children aged four to six, and main stages classes take place for six to 18-year-olds.



■ STARS IN THEIR EYES: Talented youngsters from Fulham's Stagecoach Theatre Arts School at the Adelphi.

Don't delay Heathrow decision, scrap it now, says council leader

BY JACK DIXON

jack@londonweeklynews.co.uk

THE Leader of Hammersmith and Fulham council has condemned the Government for delaying its decision over a third runway at Heathrow Airport, calling for the plans to be scrapped immediately.

Councillor Stephen Cowan said the recommendation of the Airports Commission to expand the airport had "lost all credibility".

It comes after the Government confirmed that a final decision will not be made until after the London mayoral elections in May.

Responding to the announcement, Cllr Cowan said: "The third runway should be ruled out immediately. It would bring misery to residents in Hammersmith and Fulham with unacceptable noise, traffic and pollution.

"The Airports Commission has now lost all credibility and it's time for the Government to say that the third runway is not a flyer."

The Department of Transport says it needs more time to carry out further work, including air quality analysis tests and environmental impact assess-

ments. It expects to complete this work at some point next summer.

However, the 2M campaign group, which comprises several west London councils including Hammersmith and Fulham, has warned that extra analysis is "futile".

It says expansion at Heathrow would create pollution levels beyond the bounds of environmental legislation.

A residents' commission set up in Hammersmith and Fulham came to similar conclusions about the proposals earlier this year, raising particular concern about noise pollution.

Patrick McLoughlin MP, the Secretary of State for Transport, said the Government agreed with the Airports Commission, chaired by Sir Howard Davies, that more runway capacity was needed by 2030, but that a decision on a location would be put back.

"The case for aviation expansion is clear – but it's vitally important we get the decision right so that it will benefit generations to come," he

said. "We will undertake more work on environmental impacts, including air quality, noise and carbon."

"We must develop the best possible package of measures to mitigate the impacts on local people. We will continue work on all the shortlisted locations, so that the timetable for more capacity set out by Sir Howard is met."

London Mayor Boris Johnson has underlined his opposition to the Heathrow proposals. He said the delay was a clear indication that ministers were beginning to realise that the obstacles in the path of expanding Heathrow were insurmountable and that a third runway could never be built there.

Last week, as reported in the *London Weekly News*, he urged the Government to end decades of debate by definitively ruling out expansion at Heathrow and giving proper consideration to building a bigger and better airport on one of several potential sites to the east of the capital. Mr Johnson said the evidence presented to the Gov-

ernment by the Airports Commission already makes it clear that looking east of London would offer the greatest economic potential and is the only feasible way of giving the country the aviation capacity it needs for the long term future.

Mr Johnson said: "They have put a superhuman effort into bouncing the Government into a quick decision in their favour but the Prime Minister and his colleagues have refused to allow themselves to be hustled. The wheels are falling off the Heathrow fuselage and I think that, now the Government has hit the pause button, they will begin to understand with ever greater clarity that, due to the environmental impacts, the legal obstacles and the cost to the public purse, this bird will never fly."

"But delay is not the answer. While Britain's European rivals continue to forge ahead with the construction of multi-runway mega-airports, I have long argued that the most dynamic and forward-looking approach would be to look

at the sites east of London where a four-runway hub airport could be built. To get to that position we need the Government definitively to rule out Heathrow expansion. I believe that this latest announcement makes that much more likely."



My word! Microsoft salutes pioneering schools

THREE west London primary schools have been chosen to be part of a new IT programme led by tech giant Microsoft.

The Ark Swift Academy in White City, as well as the neighbouring Ark Conway and Ark Bentworth schools, were specially selected for the Show-case School scheme.

Each was recognised for its innovative use of technology to help children's learning and development.

The schools join prestigious international group of 400 institutions and

will be able to share their expertise with partner schools around the world.

Damian McBeath, executive principal of the three schools, said: "We are delighted to be working so closely with Microsoft to improve the learning opportunities for our pupils."

"The support and training we receive has ensured that our teachers are equipped with the tools, technology and skills to provide a world-class education that inspires and engages."

The Ark schools were recognised for their "passion and commitment" to

using technology in the classroom. Microsoft bosses were particularly impressed by Ark Swift's Futurelab – a specially-designed classroom equipped with a range of digital teaching tools.

Mandeep Atwal, Microsoft's UK schools audience manager, said Ark Swift had a "strong vision for change".

He added: "They are rethinking teaching, learning and assessment in order to drive deep 21st century competencies."

The leaders of the school have created a whole-school innovative learn-

ing environment enabled by technology where students participate in their own learning and achievements to make learning more exciting."

Teachers from the three schools have already attended workshops with other digital leaders across the country.

In January the schools will be hosting a group of technology experts from Finland and Norway, as well as a group of ministers and government officials from around the world in order to show them how the schools are using technology in the classroom.

London scientist receives accolade

A LEADING London scientist has been honoured by the Medical Research Council.

The MRC recognised the achievements of Professor Sir Brian Greenwood at its prestigious Millennium Medal Award Ceremony at Somerset House on December 9.

The council's chief executive, Professor Sir John Savill, hosted the event and council chairman, Donald Brydon, presented the medal to Sir Brian, who is Manson Professor of Clinical Tropical Medicine at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

He has spent 50 years carrying out research in Africa. Through his simple but high-quality methods for clinical studies and field trials of drugs and vaccines he reinvented field research in tropical medicine.

His work led the way in seeking holistic solutions based on cutting-edge science as well as a genuine understanding of the complex challenges unique to Africa.

For 15 years Sir Brian directed the UK MRC Laboratories in The Gambia (now known as MRC Unit The Gambia).

There he managed to establish a research programme focused on some of the most important infectious diseases prevalent in the region, including malaria, pneumonia, measles, meningitis, hepatitis and HIV.

Sir Brian said: "I am very grateful to the Medical Research Council for awarding me the Millennium Medal which is, of course, recognition not only of my own research but also that of the many scientists with whom I have had the privilege of working during the past 50 years.

"There have been many changes in the way that research has been conducted in Africa during this period and I am delighted that I have had the opportunity to contribute to this important change."

Residents find gold in rubbish

WEST Londoners are being urged to turn over a green leaf in the New Year and make a resolution to recycle more.

Increasing recycling by just one per cent could save more than £70,000 a year, the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea Council is telling its residents.

Council chiefs say the following items can be included in the council's clear plastic recycling bags, provided all the items are clean and dry: paper (not shredded), newspapers, magazines, junk mail, telephone directories, envelopes, cardboard, glass bottles and jars, tins, cans and aerosols, plastic bottles, pots, tubs and trays and rinsed and flattened food and drink cartons.

Things that should not be put in recycling bags are: lids, food waste, clothes, garden waste, other plastic items and foil. The advice is that if you are in doubt leave it out so it does not contaminate the recycling. Residents are also reminded to include a golden ticket in their recycling bags so they can be entered into a prize draw for an opportunity to win cash prizes.

The golden ticket competition is being run by the Western Riverside Waste Authority, which is responsible for waste disposal and sorting the mixed recycling collected across the London boroughs of Hammersmith and Fulham, Lambeth, Wandsworth and the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea.

The next draw will be on Friday, February 12 and the final one on Thursday, March 31.

Golden tickets can be found in the December edition of the council's newspaper, *Royal Borough*. Alternatively residents can print their own golden ticket at the website www.wrwa.gov.uk/goldenticket. For more information go to www.rbkc.gov.uk/goldenticket

All we want for Christmas is for people to stop making hoax calls, say weary firefighters

BY JACK DIXON

jack@londonweeklynews.co.uk

A KITTEN with its head stuck in a bongo drum and a woman who asked firefighters to warm up her baby's milk are among the bizarre incidents highlighted in a Christmas campaign to prevent time-wasters calling the emergency services.

The London Fire Brigade has handled 8,600 hoax calls in the last five years and is now warning: "Don't call 999 unless it's a genuine emergency".

Firefighters will be on standby for turkey dinner disasters over the festive period but want to make sure they do not waste time dealing with

minor incidents.

Alongside the prank calls, 1,543 Londoners have called for help after becoming trapped in everyday objects, such as toilet seats, musical instruments and furniture.

Since 2010, the brigade – rather than the RSPCA – has been alerted to 2,868 animal rescues, while almost 190,000 false alarms were triggered by automatic fire alarms.

Firefighters will be taking to Twitter to tell followers about some of their strangest stories, as part of the #12DaysXmas campaign.

They hope to drive down the number of time-wasting incidents recorded in the capital this Christmas.

Dave Brown, Director of Operations at the London Fire Brigade, said: "It's a bit of fes-

tive fun, but the message is serious – don't call 999 unless it's a genuine emergency.

"You wouldn't believe some of the incidents crews are called out to, including a woman who asked if firefighters could warm her baby's milk up and several people with rings stuck on their genitals.

"We are also keen to reduce the number of animals firefighters are called to rescue and want people to call the RSPCA if they see an animal stuck, not 999."

Mr Brown added: "We are regularly called to deal with a lot of incidents which could be avoided.

"We want everyone to have a good Christmas, but remember that silly pranks and time-wasting calls cost us time, money and resources."

■ WARM-HEARTED: Portland Place School pupils and staff sported their favourite Christmas jumpers and most comfortable slippers to raise funds for two national charities – Save the Children and Shelter. This festive themed activity rounded off a host of seasonal activities which included the Westminster school's annual Christmas show, showcasing their musical talent, with Year 6 pupils playing instruments alongside Year 13 children to entertain parents, teaching staff and fellow pupils. Headmaster at Portland Place School, David Hyman said: 'It was highly impressive to see our pupils and staff pulling out all the stops this year in the school's Christmas charity drive. The school was awash with colour as Rudolph, Santa and robin designs took pride of place in our classrooms across the day. Portland Place School is a leading independent co-educational school for children aged 9 to 18, located in the heart of the City of Westminster. For more information on the school visit the website: www.portland-place.co.uk or call 020 7307 8700.



■ GIVE US A BREAK: London's busy fire crews have been plagued by time-wasting hoaxers.

TALE OF THE TIME WASTERS

■ There have been 8,600 hoax calls since 2010
2010 – 1,761
2011 – 2,152
2012 – 1,791
2013 – 1,485
2014 – 1,411

■ Firefighters report 1,543 instances of people stuck or trapped in

everyday objects like toilet seats

■ There have been 2,868 animal rescues for fire crews to deal with

■ There have been 187,335 false alarms resulting from automatic fire alarms

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Mayor extends scheme to help more Londoners get into shared ownership

MAYOR of London Boris Johnson may have handed Londoners a welcome Christmas present with the announcement of a boost for shared home ownership in the capital – with 1,000 new homes to be developed under a pioneering funding model with major institutional investors.

Mr Johnson wants to accelerate construction of shared ownership properties, making home ownership accessible to many more Londoners. 52,000 have already been helped into shared ownership homes through the First Steps programme, and the mayor aims to double the number of shared ownership units built in London by 2020.

In addition the mayor has instructed the GLA to explore

purchasing land in areas, such as housing zones, where the shared ownership model could be expanded. This would ensure vacant plots are put to productive use and preserve the developments for shared ownership properties.

The GLA has successfully brought to market all of its surplus sites since Mr Johnson was elected, providing almost 50,000 new homes, and will now look to make acquisitions where it will accelerate or unlock new homes.

The mayor said: "This scheme is a brilliant way to open up home ownership to Londoners on modest incomes, making the first step on the property ladder just that little bit easier."



■ **SAY CHEESE:** Getting through the cheese course of the Christmas dinner at the Royal Hospital could take quite a while for the Chelsea Pensioners this year, as they have 64 different types to try. More than five dozen varieties of cheese have been donated by 27 cheese-makers so that the Pensioners can continue their 323-year-old tradition. The historic Ceremony of the Christmas Cheeses dates back to the founding of the Royal Hospital in 1692, when a local cheesemonger donated his wares to "the Red Breasts of Chelsea" for Christmas. This year a 54lb Montgomery cheddar was ceremonially cut by 82-year-old Chelsea Pensioner Derek Walters BEM. He said: "Cheese has always been an important part of our diet and we are always very happy to receive this delicious Christmas gift. The military is known for its traditions, but this is one of my favourites." The event has been supported by The Dairy Council for 55 years. Sandy Wilkie, chairman of the council, said: "The Ceremony of Christmas Cheeses is a much-loved event in the dairy calendar – it is a colourful, and historic, way of celebrating our great British cheeses."

Could pay-to-go idea be just the ticket for Notting Hill Carnival?

BY GEOFF BAKER
geoff@londonweeklynews.co.uk

THE next Notting Hill Carnival could become pay-to-go in a bid to block knife gangs and lower the costs of policing the event.

Kensington MP Victoria Borwick and Kensington and Chelsea Council are both to survey residents of Notting Hill to determine the future of Carnival, which costs more than £6.2 million of public money to police and has raised safety fears following years of street attacks.

One option to be put to residents is for Carnival to become ticket-holders only for the first time in its 50-year history.

Another is that the event, which draws up to a million visitors, is held on the Saturday and Sunday only, and no longer on the Monday – when most of the trouble usually happens, and which costs the Met a fortune in Bank Holiday double pay for the 6,000 officers who have to control it with the help of 400 stewards who are funded by a £138,000 grant from City Hall.

Carnival organisers, including Kensington and Chelsea Council, have been criticised by Scotland Yard, which is deeply concerned by the stabbings and street crime which blot the event. At this year's event three people, including a police officer, suffered serious stab wounds while at least eight other men reportedly suffered knife wounds.

Police made 407 arrests, the most at any Carnival in a decade. A further 143 arrests were made across London in the week before Carnival in a series of swoops designed to seize potential troublemakers.

There were 21 assaults on police – including the officer who was stabbed and another who was bitten when trying to stop a group of men wrecking a property. Police arrested 57 for possession of knives – one knife-carrier was



■ **SURVEY:** MP Victoria Borwick wants Notting Hill residents to have a say on the future of the famous Carnival.

only 14 years old – and seized a fearsome range of weapons, including coshes, a knuckle-duster and a machete with a 3ft blade. The Met, which charged 50 people with possession of knives, said the number of weapons seized was double that at last year's event.

The Met's Commissioner, Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe, has warned that costs could force him to reduce the number of officers available for the 2016 Carnival and has warned that because of staff reductions and costs he cannot guarantee the safety of revellers. He recently told the GLA's Police and Crime Committee "this is the time to draw a line".

He added: "My major concern is that it could be better organised. We expect more action to be taken in the future to get better organisation – not least because I am not sure that we're going to have that many officers to police it next year. Financially it's a real burden because it cost over £6 million, and every time something takes place over a bank holiday we have a significant cost."

"It could be done better. It's got to be more professional. We've been talking to organisers for many years about trying to get improvements and my judge-

ment is that it is producing limited effect. The risk to public safety remains and we cannot continue to provide policing at that level, to provide the mitigation. And I can't take any responsibility for the safety of the people there."

The Met's Police Federation has also indicated that it would prefer Carnival not to be held on the Bank Holiday Monday and that the whole event be moved from Notting Hill to Hyde Park, where it can be better controlled.

Besides their fears of violence, many Notting Hill residents have complained of the behaviour of revellers openly urinating in the streets and of the huge piles of rubbish that Carnival leaves in its wake. Many home-owners and businesses this year invested in boarding up services to protect their properties against revellers.

Clearing up after Carnival required a large staff of refuse collectors and street cleaners who used a convoy of 30 trucks to gather 290 tonnes of rubbish. The cost of the clean-up is divided between Westminster Council and Kensington and Chelsea Council, of which Kensington and Chelsea's share is understood to be at least £175,000.

Now Lady Borwick is to send out a

survey to Notting Hill residents next month to ask whether Carnival should follow the lead of the New Year's Eve fireworks and bring in paid-for ticketing to help improve safety.

She is also to ask whether residents would prefer the event to be held only on the Saturday and Sunday.

She said: "We're trying to open negotiations with the organisers. We know that the police are talking to the council but we also need to get the Carnival community on board.

"They don't really want to see any changes but we've got to be realistic, this is not the Carnival we had ten or even five years ago. We want it to be a fun family occasion, celebrating the music and the culture, not somewhere people tell terrible stories about crime."

"How the carnival is funded is entirely up to the organisers, the local community, the council, the Met Police and the GLA. I have no doubt that ticketing may be discussed but this is not my intention as I believe that the carnival should be a family music event celebrating the cultural heritage of this area."

"In the New Year, I will be asking residents their views following the Metropolitan Police raising concerns about the future cost and licensing of the carnival. The carnival organisers, the council, the Met, the GLA – who all put money in to the Carnival in previous years – must decide what they want to do going forward. I will be sending out a questionnaire in January to ask residents' views on this."

Kensington and Chelsea Council, which is chiefly responsible as the main licensing authority, is also surveying 50,000 residents who live in the area of the Carnival route, seeking opinions on when it should be held, the need for more stewards and noise levels.

The results of both surveys are ex-

Avoid meltdown over Christmas

WHILE Christmas is the season of goodwill and festive cheer, for many Londoners it's also a time that plays havoc with their finances.

This is often a period when money problems come to a head – and a financial headache can be particularly distressing when you're trying to spend time with family and friends.

Here are tips from the Financial Ombudsman Service, which resolves disputes between consumers and firms, to help you reach the New Year without breaking the bank.

■ From presents for the kids to the 'big food shop', it can seem like cash just evaporates from your wallet at Christmas. The promise of some quick and easy cash might seem like the ideal solution – but take care when signing up for any loan, and make sure you can afford to pay it back.

■ If you're rocking around the Christmas tree in public, bear in mind the festive season is prime time for fraudsters and pickpockets. Remember to shield your pin at cash points and when paying at a bar during Christmas parties. Consider the value of what's in your bag too – if it gets pinched, are you covered?

■ It might seem a bit early to think about saving for the year ahead, but putting away regular amounts each month could take the sting out of next year's shopping bill. An ISA, with its tax advantages, could help you to do this, but check with the provider how long any headline-grabbing interest rate will last.

■ If you're having trouble meeting your financial obligations, facing the problem head-on can help sort the situation out. Contact your bank or lender straight away – they may be able to help.

Light relief for January blues

THE first Lumiere London Festival – a free festival of light – will take place across locations in Soho, Mayfair, Leicester Square, Oxford Circus, Regent Street and Piccadilly, every evening from 6.30pm to 10pm from Thursday, January 14 to Sunday 17.

Produced by arts charity Artichoke, and supported by the Mayor of London and Westminster City Council, more than 20 pioneering international artists have been commissioned to transform buildings and streets in the capital as part of the festival.

This major new festival will feature installations at some of the city's most iconic landmarks. Lumiere London will explore London's urban landscape and architecture from Leicester Square to Piccadilly, St James's, Carnaby Street, and Oxford Circus in London's West End.

Organisers are working closely with the council, the Greater London Authority, the Metropolitan Police, and Transport for London to minimise disruption.

Crane man dies 20m above site

A CRANE operator has died after suffering a cardiac arrest on a Fulham construction site.

The worker was 20 metres above the ground in a cab when he fell unconscious last Monday (December 14).

Firefighters scaled the crane using hydraulic equipment and paramedics were said to have performed CPR at the top of the crane. The man had been working on a new apartment block in New King's Road for developer London Square.

A spokesperson for the London Ambulance Service said: "Every effort was made to resuscitate the patient at the scene but despite the best efforts of the crew, a man died."

London Fire Brigade was called to the incident at around 10.30am and officers left the scene by 12.30pm.

Ration book Christmas a 'treat' for 1945's war-weary Londoners

BY GEOFF BAKER
geoff@londonweeklynews.co.uk

AS Westminster residents prepare to throw away more than £5 million worth of wasted food and drink this Christmas, they may spare a thought for the Londoners of Christmas 1945 – when food was so scarce that a black market turkey cost £385.49 at today's prices.

Modern day Westminster will waste an average of £28 of food and drink per adult this year – or £5,376,000 worth that is chucked away in the post-Christmas clear-up.

Wasteful Westminster is a far cry from the London experience of 70 years ago, when the capital was struggling to either eat, drink or be merry in the first post-war Christmas.

According to research by Radium One and Money Advice Services, the average Londoner will spend £489 on Christmas presents this year. Those aged 25 to 34 will spend even more, £767 a head – bringing the yuppie bracket's total spend in the city to £1.2 billion. Of them, 37 per cent say they are expecting to receive presents worth around £50 that they do not want or will never use.

But compared to what their grandparents endured after the war, they have never had it so good.

A newspaper dispatch of December 22, 1945 has revealed the truth of many an elderly Londoner's claim that "you don't know how lucky you are".

This Christmas a 15lb Tesco turkey costs £19. But in post-

war London of 1945 only the very rich could afford a turkey for Christmas dinner – which had to be bought illegally from the spivs at up to £10 a bird, the equivalent of £385.49 today.

War-weary Londoners could not even drink their sorrows away. A bottle of port which costs £8 now would set back those suffering a very miserly Christmas the equivalent of £115.44.

Poor London then was so lacking in foodstuffs that the capital looked forward to a coming cargo of oranges as a great luxury.

But as an article by Paul McGuire, the London correspondent for *The Melbourne Argus*, revealed on December 22, 1945, the precious fruit took so long to get to the docks that when the crates were ea-

In the early days of the royal Christmas radio broadcast 80 years ago, it wasn't the King the nation and Commonwealth first heard – it was the voice of an old Cotwolds shepherd talking about his mother's plum pudding – PAGE 12

gerly opened it was rotten.

"London's first post-war Christmas will be a dismal affair by all normal standards," McGuire reported.

"People do remind themselves that it lacks the blackout, and lacks rockets, and has peace of a sort. But it has not much else."

"A Food Ministry official admits that the food situation is worse than at any time during the war. London as a special treat was to have oranges but of three shiploads expected only

one has arrived and with most of the cargo gone bad.

"Less than half the wines and spirits expected has arrived. Anyone so steeped in reaction as to like a bottle of wine with Christmas dinner may, after desperate efforts, get an inferior port or sherry at £2 or £3 a bottle.

"Some wild sybarites, remembering the ancient Christmas role of the turkey have, after incredible adventures, acquired a black market bird for £6 to £10. But having caught a turkey they have probably missed out on the stuffing.

Christmas presents are shockingly difficult. Only semi-fashioned rayon stockings are obtainable and there are no lined gloves and no handbags of quality under £6 (£231.29 now). Jewellery is mostly flashy – and not cheap.

"Toys are deplorable. A piece of wood shaped for a faint suggestion of a tommy gun costs 15 shillings. Toy soldiers are 9/6 each. Cuddly animals all seem to have bad-tempered expressions. A gloomy elephant offers at 19/5.

"Cases of food have arrived from Australia. Melbourne's gift of toys are being distributed. South Africa's first shipload of plum puddings is here.

"Buenos Aires sends vast quantities of sweets for half a million children. These gifts from overseas have touched the people here and act as Christmas presents for the whole nation."

Seventy years on, Radium One research estimates that this Christmas the average adult will put on half a stone in weight while the nation will throw away £2.4 billion of wasted food.



■ THE WAY WE WERE: A 1945 front room at Christmas time, as recreated by the Imperial War Museum recently. Below: rationing was as stringent in the immediate post-war years, if not worse, than during the previous five years.



■ HARD TIMES: Long queues for groceries and other rationed items were a routine sight in the austerity years immediately after the Second World War – and not only in London. Inset left: Christmas greetings card from 1945 sums up the nation's determination to make the best of a bad job and celebrate the season – despite all of its shortages and deprivations. 70 years later, Londoners will be embracing Christmas from a vastly different position.

Christmas trees 'are bad for you'

AS many as a third of Londoners suffer from an increase of hay fever-like symptoms at Christmas, with real Christmas trees causing most of the problems, according to a recent poll for Prevalin Allergy.

Dubbed Christmas Tree Syndrome, symptoms include itchy nose, watery eyes, wheezing, coughing, chest pains, lethargy and insomnia – and it can even lead to life-threatening pneumonia, in rare serious cases.

Scientists from Upstate Medical University, part of the State University of New York, discovered the condition after they saw an increase in respiratory problems in the weeks leading up to and shortly after December 25.

When they analysed pine needles and bark from 28 Christmas trees, they found 53 cases of mould, which releases spores that can trigger allergic reactions in people who are susceptible.

Concert hall idea

A NEW London concert hall would come with a £278million price tag and be built close to St Paul's Cathedral on the site of the Museum of London.

That's the conclusion of a six-month feasibility study.

The Government said it would provide £5.5million to fund a full business case for the planned hall, which would be home to the London Symphony Orchestra.

The report was commissioned in February by the chancellor, George Osborne, and the London mayor, Boris Johnson, to look into whether a world-class concert hall needed to be built, how much might it cost and where it could be constructed.

"family entertainment at its very best. I couldn't see because I was crying with laughter. If you only go and see one panto this Christmas, make it this one"
South London Press

Red Riding Hood

MUST END 10 JANUARY



BOX OFFICE 020 8855 7755 | www.greenwichtheatre.org.uk

GREENWICH
THEATRE LONDON

'Cause a stink to ban smelly food on Tube'

BY GEOFF BAKER
geoff@londonweeklynews.co.uk

THIS could be the last Christmas that "rude" passengers can eat smelly food on the Tube – if enough people complain about it.

Transport for London says it will look into a proposed ban on eating "offensive" curries, fried chicken, burgers and other meals that reek – but it cannot act unless it receives enough complaints.

The proposal that no eating of hot food is added to the ban on smoking cigarettes and drinking alcohol on the Underground is to be investigated by the Government after peers raised a stink in the House of Lords.

The bid to outlaw passengers eating pungent takeaways was raised in the Lords by Lord Sherbourne of Didsbury.

He said: "Given that smoking and the consumption of alcohol are now banned on the Tube, should not Transport for London follow the lead of some American cities, such as Washington DC, and consider banning the consumption of hot food on Tube trains? Many passengers in congested carriages find that very offensive; it creates litter and, when left lying around carriages, can create a health hazard."

Lord Didsbury asked Transport Minister Lord Ahmad to

raise the issue with TfL "and suggest that it considers this proposal, and perhaps undertakes a passenger survey to find out what passengers would like."

The Transport Minister said eating smelly food on the Tube was "an important area of concern to many commuters across London" and has agreed to put it on the agenda at his next meeting with TfL in the New Year.

TfL says "the problem needs to be thought about" but it will be powerless to act unless it receives sufficient complaints from passengers. A spokesman said although passengers may object on the Tube to someone eating a stinking meal, and may complain about it on social media, unless complaints are sent to TfL itself, it lacks the weight of public opinion to bring in a food ban.

If a large number of complaints are made, TfL could bring in a ban on smelly food under a clause in its existing byelaws. In the conditions for unacceptable behaviour in the byelaws it says, "No person shall behave in a disorderly, indecent or offensive manner on the railway".

TfL may now conduct a passenger survey in the New Year to discover how many commuters consider eating hot food on the Tube to be "offensive".

According to various polls conducted in recent years, the stench of food on the Tube is one of Londoners' pet hates about the

Underground – along with overcrowding, drunks, feet on seats, space-hogging, not giving up a seat for pregnant women and the elderly, talking loudly on the phone, tourists with large rucksacks and people who sneeze or cough without covering their face. But according to a YouGov poll conducted last year, the number one hate is not smelly food but smelly people.

More than 40 per cent of those polled said it was passengers with poor personal hygiene who topped the list of bugbears.

"By some margin it's the smelliness that annoys people the most," said a YouGov spokesman. "Perhaps this survey might make people a bit more considerate to their fellow passengers."

Rather than effecting a ban, TfL's recent approach has been an advertising campaign to gently urge passengers to take responsibility for stinking out the carriages but this may be bolstered by harder-hitting advertising in the New Year.

However, TfL is not likely to repeat its campaign of a decade ago, when it attempted to tackle the issue of eating smelly food with posters of a passenger surrounded by salami and Parma ham. Those posters had to be pulled after the Italian ambassador complained that it was "offensive and harmful to Italian products".



■ COOL CUSTOMER: Barry the Penguin put in a guest appearance at the Theatre cafe on Shaftesbury Avenue last week and London Weekly News entertainment reporter Nicky Sweetland was lucky enough to meet him. The star of the illustrated musical Christmas story book was on hand, or should it be flipper, to sign copies for fans. *Barry the Penguin's Black and White Christmas* comes with an audio disc which features former Doctor Who star Christopher Eccleston along with some top West End performers. For more details visit the website perfectpitchmusicals.com



■ FESTIVE CHEER: Creative Christmas designs drawn up by school pupils in Hammersmith and Fulham have been selected for the Mayor's official greetings card. The colourful sketches earned the three lucky winners a £25 gift voucher, while the headteachers of their schools were awarded a special plaque and a box of Christmas chocolates. Milly Caracciolo-Shahi (pictured), from Wendell Park Primary in Shepherd's Bush, Naamiya Ogundun, from Melcombe Primary in Hammersmith, and Alison Spoukal-Lolandes, from the St John XXIII Catholic Primary in White City, picked up the prizes for their schools. Councillor Mercy Umeh, Mayor of Hammersmith and Fulham, said: 'It wasn't an easy decision to make. However, the designs from Milly, Naamiya and Alison really stood out.'



■ BE MY CHRISTMAS BUDDY: Bud the greyhound cross is London's loneliest dog – this week facing his third Christmas at Battersea Dogs & Cats Home. In the years he has spent at the rescue centre Bud has watched more than 5,000 dogs come and go. Seven-year-old Bud has been at the centre 20 times longer than the average stay for a dog and all he wants is his own stocking by the fire in a new home. This Christmas he will be among the 300 dogs and 220 cats currently homed at Battersea. 'We can't believe Bud has been with us for so long, but there's no time limit and he'll stay with us for as long as it takes to find him a home. As much as our staff adores him, we would prefer to see him surrounded by his own family this festive season! If you think that you could offer a long-stay dog like Bud the right home, please contact Battersea Old Windsor on 01784 432 929 or you can visit the dogs' home website at this address: www.battersea.org.uk

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Singer helps at homeless centre

POP star Ellie Goulding has been announced as the first patron of a charity project supporting homeless women in London.

Her appointment came after Goulding recently visited the Marylebone Project to talk to the women and staff about their experiences.

She said: "I am so pleased to be the first-ever patron of the Marylebone Project. This amazing place serves hundreds of homeless women every week and helps them make a fresh start."

"I love how the project empowers women to make the changes to transform their own lives. I saw this for myself when I visited a few weeks ago and was inspired by the stories of the women I met."

Church Army chief executive Mark Russell said: "I am so excited that Ellie has accepted my invitation to become the patron of the Marylebone Project. She is such an amazing advocate for homeless people and she is passionate about helping those in need. All our clients are so excited that Ellie wants to be part of our project. We are so grateful for her fantastic support."

Church Army says the singer will be volunteering at Marylebone over the Christmas period to get to know the women, staff and objectives of the project better.

During the last financial year, the project offered over 40,000 bed nights to women in London.

Goulding and homeless charity Streets of London recently donated £15,000 to the Marylebone Project, which will be used for its Women into Work programme designed to train, support and guide women on their journey towards employment.

Elderly choose to heat or eat

SOME 752,000 older people have had to choose between paying for food and paying for heating, according to estimates from the Kensington-based charity for older people, Independent Age.

Meanwhile, almost half (43 per cent) of those aged 65 and over say they have gone to bed early to stay warm at least once, with an estimated 890,000 older people doing this often or even every day.

The charity carried out the survey as it launched its new, free Winter Wise advice leaflet for older people, their families and carers.

Other key findings include:

- One in 17 (six per cent) people aged 65-plus say they don't eat a hot meal every day in winter
- One in 17 (six per cent) people aged 65-plus say they heat one or no rooms in their home in winter
- Two-thirds (66 per cent) of those aged 65-plus say they feel more isolated and/or go out less in winter

Mayor candidate issues unity call

LABOUR'S London mayoral candidate Sadiq Khan issued a direct challenge to Muslims and Jews who promote "division and hostility" between the two communities.

In a speech at the Union of Jewish Students' annual conference last week he said: "It's sad, but there are a great many people who say that we shouldn't get on – a room full of Jews and me, a Muslim."

"They say that we're very different. That we have fundamentally opposed world views."

"You'll hear it from Muslims and Jews alike – from community leaders, religious leaders and others."

"They are the propagandists of division and hostility between our communities."

The Tooting MP said both Jews and Muslims had "a responsibility" to tell doubters "and the rest of world, that they're wrong".

Wrap up, it's Christmas

CYNICS may tell us that the true meaning of Christmas has given way to indulgence and greed – but new research suggests Londoners would rather spend time with their family than receive the perfect present this year, writes Jack Dixon.

A YouGov poll found that 85 per cent of Brits put a higher price on being close to their loved ones than opening up their ideal gift on Christmas morning. The research was commissioned by mobile network provider giffgaff, which has launched a festive campaign to celebrate the Christmas spirit.

It wants customers to put their phones down and “give the gift of themselves” on December 25.

The People for Presents campaign caught the eye last week as festive figures appeared overnight around London.

The gift-wrapped human statues popped up in Battersea and at Brixton station, while a model of Olympic hero Steve Ovett was constructed on Brighton's seafront.

A giffgaff spokesman said: “The project is in stark contrast to a growing Christmas retail trend of big-budget TV spots pushing a commercial message.”

In a separate study conducted in the run-up to Christmas, YouGov predicted



■ PEOPLE POWER: Festive figures popped up at Brixton station, above, and at other spots in London and across the country.

that the average British household would spend slightly less on this year's festivities. Its annual research into Christmas spending forecast that households would fork out only £796 – down £24 on the figure for 2014.

YouGov spokesman Andrew Farmer said that food and drink were the main areas targeted for savings, with the average household planning to spend £159, compared with an outlay of £174 last Christmas.



Yes minister, our street market is one of the nation's favourites

BY LWN REPORTER

editorial@londonweeklynews.co.uk

HIGH Street Minister Marcus Jones MP popped down to Portobello and Golborne Market to meet traders and get a first-hand account of what modern street markets can offer shoppers.

The visit on December 15 also called attention to Love Your Local Market's seasonal #lylmmas campaign and the online competition to find Britain's Favourite Market.

Mr Jones, whose department has supported the Love Your Local Market Campaign since 2012, met a variety of traders representing the market's many traditions, including 90-year-old Dolly Stallard, its oldest street trader.

Mr Jones, who was accompanied on his visit by Kensington MP Victoria Borwick, received a Portobello Market shopper-bag and pin badge to mark the 150th anniversary and a 2016 calendar

created by year nine GCSE photography students at Sion-Manning Girls' School.

Mr Jones said: “I'm pleased to see that Britain's markets are just as important to their communities now as they were more than a century ago. I'd like to wish them the best of luck in their bid to become Britain's Favourite Market and would urge local people to come down and see what's on offer.”

Portobello and Golborne Market is encouraging Christmas shoppers to support local traders and shops by taking part in its Christmas Shopping Passport promotion. Shoppers who collect five tokens when they shop at stalls and stores that feature the Shopping Passport promotion posters can enter competitions to win festive hampers donated by participating businesses.

Cllr Will Pascall, who is Kensington and Chelsea council's lead member for environment, environmental health and leisure – which is responsible for the market – urged residents, visitors and

stallholders to help round off Portobello and Golborne Market's year of celebrations by voting it Britain's favourite market.”

He said: “I am very pleased that the minister has visited Portobello and Golborne Market in its 150th year. What started as a milk stall on a country lane has grown into the bustling and colourful market that we have today which attracts thousands of shoppers every week. I hope that local residents and Londoners and street market traders will help crown its 150th celebrations by voting Portobello and Golborne Britain's favourite market.”

The competition to find Britain's favourite market is organised by NABMA (the National Association of British Market Authorities). To vote go to www.nabma.com/britainsfavouritemarket – type the market's name Portobello and Golborne Market and submit your entry. The competition, which closes on Thursday, December 31, last year attracted more than 100,000 votes.



■ BARGAIN HUNT: High Street Minister Marcus Jones at Portobello and Golborne Market.

Charlie Mullins, Pimlico Plumbers entrepreneur, writes for the London Weekly News

Late payers make Christmas a trial for small businesses

WITHOUT doubt, one of the most frustrating things about running a business is dealing with late payments. Despite this being the season of goodwill, the Scrooge-like culture of businesses not paying their bills will take the gloss off anyone's Christmas. One of the plus points when coming out of a recession is that businesses continue to think smart about how they run their enterprises; keep things tight but take a more cautiously optimistic approach to the future.

On the flip side, there are firms that extended payment terms during the recession and have continued to apply this disgraceful practice into our improved economy. According to some research by a company called Tungsten a few months ago, nearly a quarter of small and medium sized businesses in the UK are under pressure because

of the late payment on invoices. This research reckons that the average SME is owed about £40,000 in unpaid invoices, with more than half of it overdue. Applied to the UK's 5.2 million SME businesses, the total owed could be an eye-watering £212 billion.

The impact late payments have on small and medium sized businesses cannot be underestimated, especially for those that are VAT registered and don't operate on cash terms, but pay tax based on the value of the invoices issued and received rather than the payments they've got in and made.

Some firms end up relying on overdrafts to keep things going or become offenders themselves by delaying paying bills and staff. All this does is create a domino effect where the pain is passed on and no one in the business community is immune.

I was hopeful that when the Government-

backed Prompt Payment Code was launched it would be a step in the right direction to wipe this practice from UK businesses. It is designed to encourage better treatment of suppliers, but perhaps the rules need tightening further and 'encourage' is replaced by 'required'.

To my mind, late payment is no different to failing to pay staff the minimum wage. Great strides have been made to name and shame those businesses and perhaps the same should be the case for the worst offending late payers. Perhaps the threat of a decent fine – with strict 30-day payment terms of course – will make them think twice!

After all, it's in the Government's interests to make sure the cash that is the lifeblood of business is injected into SMEs. Without it firms will cut jobs, cancel investments and ultimately impact on the amount

of money that's received by the Treasury. Money makes the world go round, but the planet could be in danger of falling off its axis if big business keep the cash squirreled away and fail to pay their suppliers what they are owed.

It would be a fantastic Christmas gift for all our small businesses to come back in January to find their accounts swelled by all the cash they're owed. Unfortunately, while Christmas is supposed to be a time of miracles, I think that this is probably a wish too far, but we can always hope!

This is my last column of 2015 and I want to thank all the readers of London Weekly News and everyone who has tweeted me @pimlicoentrepreneur about what I've written for this fantastic publication over the last year. Have a fantastic Christmas and a prosperous and profitable 2016.

Boroughs salute child care chief

AN expert in children's services who has served west London communities for the last five years has been appointed the new Commissioner for Children's Social Care in Birmingham.

Andrew Christie replaces Lord Warner, who has stepped down.

With a population of well over a million, Birmingham is Britain's biggest city council but the scale of the task is unlikely to faze Christie; since 2011 he has overseen children's services in the three west London boroughs of Westminster, Hammersmith & Fulham and Kensington and Chelsea, an area with over 150 schools and a combined budget of more than £400 million.

Throughout his period as Executive Director of Children's Services, all three councils have recorded consistently strong performances in education and children's services.

Prior to leading children services for the three boroughs, which also share a range of other services, Mr Christie was director of children's services for Hammersmith & Fulham, a role he held since 2006. He has more than 40 years of front line social work experience.

Initially, Mr Christie will be doing the commissioner's job for two to three days a month, with the three London boroughs being compensated for the loss of his services. However, he retires in April and will then be able to devote more of his time to Birmingham.

“Always courteous, and always wise, Andrew Christie has been a very reassuring presence in this most important and difficult area of council business,” said Cllr Elizabeth Campbell, Kensington and Chelsea's Cabinet Member for Children and Families. “So plainly and simply put, his retirement is a big blow to us.

“But it is good news that his skills and experience are not to be lost and that others will now benefit from his steady hand and good sense.”

“Andrew has shown an enormous amount of dedication and drive to improve the lives of children and young people across London during a career that spans over 40 years,” added councillor Danny Chalkley, Westminster City Council's Cabinet Member for Children and Young People.

“I know he shares my commitment to championing children's rights and safeguarding their interests – particularly the most vulnerable. I have absolutely no doubt that his impeccable track record in children and young people's services and the passion he has demonstrated throughout will make a real difference to the lives of children in Birmingham, and I wish him all the best.”

Cancer research knowledge boost

SCIENTISTS from London's Institute of Cancer Research have helped discover how cells that usually help repair wounds can switch from friend to foe – and instead escalate tumour growth and cancer spread.

Research published last week explained that cells in the body are surrounded by a network called the matrix that gives tissues structure. During wound healing in healthy tissue, cells called fibroblasts repair damaged parts of this network.

But when fibroblasts surround cancer tissue they change the matrix to encourage cancer cells to spread. Cancer Research UK-funded teams at the Francis Crick Institute and The Institute of Cancer Research, in Sutton, discovered that cancer cells can trick fibroblasts into turning on a protein called Cdc42EP3. Too much of this protein makes fibroblasts stronger and better at moving the matrix.

This enables more blood vessels to feed the tumour – helping it to grow and spread.

ROYAL LONDON

Seasonal messages – of hope, family and

MORE people watched The Queen's Christmas broadcast last year than anything else on television, which rather says a lot for where our hearts and minds are on the big day, writes Geoff Baker.

If you were a bit nicely-thank-you'd at the time and can't recall Her Majesty's message, she spoke of her visit to the ceramic poppy memorial at the Tower of London, recalled the Christmas truce in the trenches of 1914, the Northern Ireland peace process, the Scottish independence lark [my word, not hers] and praised "the selflessness of aid workers and medical volunteers who have gone abroad to help victims of conflict or of diseases like Ebola, often at great personal risk".

As our royal "experts" delight in getting it wrong, there were so many rumours knocking about that The Queen was going to use her broadcast to announce her abdication – an idea so fanciful that you may as well have suggested she was going to announce she was to take a space shuttle to Mars.

The rumours began after betting shops suspended wagering on whether or not she would be abdicating after the placement of an "unusual number" of large bets in a short period "instantly set alarm bells ringing".

Clearly the bells should have been ringing about bookies' ability to pull a fast publicity stunt or their aptitude to spot a runner from a wild three-legged claim, but despite 60 years of assurance that it will never happen there's still the odd disbeliever out there who knows better.

And so at 3pm on Christmas Day all festivity will stop for The Queen, as millions of families gather to hear her words of wisdom and comfort and a handful sit there clutching their betting slips in the insane belief that Her Majesty will say she's off.

But in the early days of the radio broadcast 80 years ago, it wasn't The King that the nation and Commonwealth first heard – it was the voice of an old Cotswolds shepherd talking about his mother's plum pudding.

In what would be the equivalent these days of having Joe Grundy from *The Archers* introducing The Queen, the BBC hit on the idea of having a 64-year-old sheep farmer introduce King George V for the radio broadcast which had been created two years earlier to inaugurate the Empire Service, now the BBC World Service.

Although Rudyard Kipling wrote the inaugural speech for him, The King had initially been hesitant about demonstrating the new technology which would enable his unknown voice to be heard for the first time in Australia, Canada, India, Kenya and South Africa.

But no such wariness affected 'The Cotswold Shepherd', Walton Handy, when he was chosen to introduce the King for the 1934 broadcast.

As the empire tuned in expecting to hear the King from his home at Sandringham, instead they heard Walton talking in broad Warwickshire accent from his home village of Ilmington.

One can imagine the confusion it may have caused as Walton began:

Where I stand used to be the old tithe barn, where my Grandad and great-Grandad used to thresh the corn. I was born 200 yards from here, and I a' been a shepherd all my life.'

Latecomers to the royal broadcast could have been even more flummoxed, possibly worried that the King was somewhat strapped for cash, as Walton continued:

'My Dad worked for ten shillings a week and brought up eleven of us...'

Eleven? The empire understood that Edward VII had only six children; what was this, and what was this talk of Good King Bertie working for only ten bob?

Walton continued:

'I'm the only one left in the village and I've a brother in New Zealand and if by



■ **BEST OF BRITISH:** The tradition of the Royal broadcast on Christmas Day endures.

The Christmas Day Royal appointment we still love to keep

chance he's listening to I today, I wish he'd write to I, for I hadn't heard from him for many years. Perhaps he might like the old verse our Dad used to say to me:



■ **EARLY TURN:** The Queen's first Christmas broadcast.

*'Do your best for one another
Make a life of pleasant ease,
Help a worn and weary brother,
Pulling hard against the strain.'*

As some must have considered that if this was Kipling's scriptwriting again, he was barely at his best, Walton went on:

'We used to have some merry Christmases in those days. Our Christmas pudding was a suet roll in which our mother used to push the plums in, and Christmas was a great time for the old Mummers and also for the dancers. My wife's Dad used to play the old Tabor and pipe....'

But just as the radio-owning homes of Nairobi and Sydney began to wonder what on earth was going on, and what was this business about the Duke of Teck being a drummer, clarity dawned as Walton bowed out with his introduction proper:

'I could tell ye much more about our old Christmas customs but my time is up, so goodbye and a merry Christmas from an old shepherd – in the name of Ilmington, a merry Christmas to you all'

and in the name of the empire, God bless our gracious King.'

And then the King's voice began, quelling any concern about Queen Alexandra having to make her own suet pudding. Although Walton Handy became something of a celebrity – he was offered a four-week turn in music hall at the London Palladium – the BBC dropped the idea of the monarch needing much introduction.

There was no Royal Christmas Broadcast in 1936 and 1938 and it was not until 1939 that the tradition was properly established by The Queen's father, King George VI.

Bravely defying a persecuting stammer, the King took to the airwaves from Sandringham to reassure his people in a world at war. He dressed in the uniform of Admiral of the Fleet and gave a landmark speech which was to rally the morale of a frightened nation and inspire them to hold fast as the King spoke from his heart:

'The festival which we know as Christmas is above all a festival of peace and of the home. Among all free peoples the love of peace is profound, for this alone gives security to the home. But true peace is in the hearts of men, and it is the tragedy of this time that there are powerful countries whose whole direction and policy are based on aggression and on the suppression of all that we hold dear for mankind. It is this that has stirred our peoples and given them a unity unknown in any previous war. We feel in our hearts that we are fighting against wickedness, and this conviction will give us strength from day to day to persevere until victory is assured.'

Near the end of broadcast, he said:

'A new year is at hand what it will bring. If it be thankful we shall all be continued struggle, we undaunted.'

The King ended his speech given to him by his 13-year-old Princess Elizabeth. She contained the lines, 'I said I stood at the gate of the year that I may tread safely into it.'

The words were to be The Queen's first contribution to a Royal Christmas Broadcast and they set the tone for all of the Christmas Broadcasts made as monarch since 1939.

Only once since, in 1969, was the Queen not given a Royal Christmas Broadcast, that was because of a school strike. The BBC documentary *Royal Christmas Broadcast* went behind the scenes to work and at play water-skiers and having a family barbecue.

Although the documentary was not given a Royal Christmas Broadcast, it depicted the Royal Family and the public that Christmas tradition was still alive. The cameras intruding on The Queen's Christmas Broadcast was a sad dressing. Viewers were shocked to see their Queen at Christmas dressed like flies of the Balmoral.

Fortunately for tradition, the Queen and Prince Philip agreed and 'the Queen' marked Christmas ever since.

and fellowship and a call for social action

ROYAL LONDON

William fights to be heard on the big issue close to his heart: homelessness

BY GEOFF BAKER
geoff@londonweeklynews.co.uk

AS his own charity warns that some young people will have to get themselves arrested or injured in order to avoid dying on the streets of "the best city in the world" this Christmas, Prince William has hit out on behalf of the capital's forgotten homeless, calling on the Government and local authorities to "wake up" and help them.

More than 2,000 years after Joseph and Mary were forced to sleep rough, there is still no room at the inn or anywhere else for the desperate.

This year, more 7,500 people slept rough in the city named in June as the planet's finest, and hundreds of them are still out there; freezing at night, hungry, humiliated and begging by day.

But Prince William has warned that many young homeless are going without help because according to bureaucratic red tape they are not homeless at all.

After Kensington and Chelsea Council got itself branded "disgusting" earlier this year for a hugely-controversial poster campaign which persuaded the public not to give money to young people begging, the most popular resident of the royal borough is taking a more compassionate and braver stand for the street sleepers.

In an interview with a stern message for national and local authorities, Prince William says, "in today's western world, with all of the advancements and privileges that we have, the fact that some people don't have a bed or roof over their heads is quite ridiculous."

William spoke out in an interview for *The Big Issue* with City University journalism student Sophia Ki-

chou. Sophia, who was once homeless herself, met the prince four years ago when she was at Centrepoint, the charity of which his mother was patron and whose work is now continued by William.

When the interview was published recently, it received massive coverage for the part in which William said that Prince George would be "bouncing around like a rabbit" with excitement this Christmas.

But little coverage was given to the whole point of the interview, which was William's intention to raise awareness that on the streets of the world's so-called leading city hundreds of young people will be homeless, hungry, threatened and frightened this Christmas – and told by officials that they are not homeless at all.

Centrepoint says that unless these homeless young people get support from the public this week, their options are grim: either they must cut themselves so badly that they are admitted to hospital, sleep with a stranger or deliberately commit a crime in order to get themselves arrested and have the warmth, at least, of a police cell.

"If young people have to go to those lengths then we have to do something about it," said William, who has been involved with Centrepoint since when his mother took him on her many unpublicised visits to the charity.

Since becoming patron of Centrepoint 10 years ago, William has followed Princess Diana's example by making many private visits to work with the charity's volunteers and listen to the horror stories of the victims whose helplessness and neglect shames London's claim to be the best of anything.

Prince William highlighted the fact that due to shocking loopholes in local authorities' obligation to help the homeless – i.e. to put a roof over their unfortunate heads – there are 120,000 young people who are not even recognised as homeless by officialdom, even though they quite patently are.

"There are 136,000 young people in England and Wales in need of emergency support, yet only 16,000 are officially accepted as homeless," said Prince William.

"It shows it's still a huge problem that we haven't addressed fully. I would love the country to wake up to the issue."

Centrepoint explained that many young people are not getting help because they are not "statutory homeless".

Statutory homelessness relates to those who meet the criteria to legally be entitled to housing: being under-18 years-old, being at risk of domestic violence or having a dependent child.

Centrepoint said that of the 136,000 young people who presented themselves to councils as homeless, at least 30,000 are estimated to have been turned away

by councils without any practical support and between 80,000-90,000 are estimated to have been offered prevention or relief support such as family mediation or advice on managing debt.

But William is optimistic that one day no young person will have to sleep rough in London.

"I still believe it is possible to end youth homelessness, early intervention is key. The earlier we can tackle young people's problems, the more likely we are to give them the ability to fix their own future."

A one-off donation of £15 would give a homeless young person a safe bed this Christmas. To donate, go to www.centrepoint.org.uk



■ CAMPAIGN: A concerned Prince William has followed his mother's lead and supported the Centrepoint charity.



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ROYAL LONDON

Celebrate with the most famous family in the land

Have yourself a very Royal Christmas



■ DRESSED FOR ACTION: Final decorations are applied to the Royal Family's tree on Christmas Eve.

FORGET all of the latest fads and fashions of the nouveau kitsch; if you want to add real class to your Christmas this year, do it the royal way and keep it simple. They may be the Planet Earth's First Family but when it comes to celebrating the season the royals insist on having a traditional time – and here, lovingly compiled by Geoff Baker, is a guide of how to have a Queen-like Christmas...

■ Keep it in the family. Only royals are invited when the family gathers on Christmas Eve. Guests can be invited on Boxing Day.
 ■ All the family are expected to assemble at 4pm on Christmas Eve for the children to add decorations for the final dressing of a 20ft tree, an institution invented by Queen Victoria. Men are expected to wear lounge suits and women wear dresses.
 ■ Dressing the tree is followed by tea. The Royal Family prefer Earl Grey with a variety of dishes including cucumber sandwiches with the crusts cut off, jam sandwiches [one of The Queen's favourites], small scones the size of a 50p piece, ginger cake and, another of Her Majesty's favourites, McVities chocolate biscuit cake – made with 8oz of Rich Tea biscuits and 12oz of dark chocolate.
 ■ After tea, the presents are opened. The Royal Family always open their presents on Christmas Eve and the rule for gift-giving is that they should be cheap and preferably silly. Prince Harry was once given a Grow Your Own Girlfriend Kit, Prince Charles is said to have especially liked Princess Anne's gift of a padded leather toilet seat and The Queen was much amused to have been given on one occasion a kitchen apron and on another, a toy rubber chicken which squawked.
 ■ After presents, champagne or martinis are served – with The Queen preferring 'The Zaza' cocktail of Dubonnet and gin, one part Dubonnet to one part gin, poured over ice and served with a twist of lemon peel.

■ After cocktails, everyone goes to their rooms to prepare for dinner, which is served at 8pm and by candlelight. Men are expected to wear black tie and the women their finest gowns and best jewels, complete with tiaras.
 ■ On Christmas Day all the members of the Royal Family wake to find a stocking at the end of their beds, filled with small gifts.
 ■ Christmas Day breakfast can include eggs [The Queen believes that brown ones taste best] and sausages. Her Majesty enjoys sausages and gets hers from Musk's of Newmarket, who make their 75 per cent pork bangers to a 120-year-old recipe. Kippers too are on the breakfast menu, the royals' smoked fish coming from Fortune of Whitby. Toast is served with Frank Cooper's Oxford marmalade.
 ■ After breakfast, church. The Royal Family insist on all attending a traditional service for prayer and carols singing.
 ■ Christmas lunch is served at



■ TRADITION: After Christmas Day it's off to church for the Royal Family – traditionally at Sandringham in Norfolk.

by Celebration Crackers of Dorset.

■ All proceedings stop at 3pm when the family gathers around the television to watch The Queen's Christmas Message.

■ Depending on the weather, Christmas afternoon pursuits can vary from a brisk dog walk to completing a jigsaw puzzle [one of The Queen's favourite festive past times] or charades, at which Her Majesty is said to be a champion as she is an excellent mimic.

■ In the evening champagne and cocktails are served again – and it should be noted that The Queen no longer serves caviar nor foie gras as canapés, due to conservation and animal welfare concerns.

■ Black-tie Christmas dinner is served at 8.15pm. Dishes may include Oeufs Drumkib, a shrimp cocktail made with fresh mayonnaise, Tabasco and anchovy pate, of which The Queen and Prince Charles are fond [the royal potted shrimps come from James Baxter & Son of Morecambe, Lancashire], mushrooms a la crème, and beef from the royal Aberdeenshire butchers HM Sheridan of Ballater and Donald Russell of Inverurie.

■ At the end of the meal, the women retire to an ante room as the men serve port and brandy. And thence to bed – although none of the grown-ups may go up before The Queen.

■ **FAMILY FAVOURITES:**
 The Queen prefers Dubonnet, while Christmas dinner will be a traditional affair, and there will be sprouts.

Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer

Rudolph, the red-nosed reindeer
 had a very shiny nose.
 And if you ever saw him,
 you would even say it glows.

All of the other reindeer
 used to laugh and call him names.
 They never let poor Rudolph
 join in any reindeer games.

Then one foggy Christmas Eve
 Santa came to say:
 'Rudolph with your nose so bright,
 won't you guide my sleigh tonight?'

Then all the reindeer loved him
 as they shouted out with glee,
 Rudolph the red-nosed reindeer,
 you'll go down in history!





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CHRISTMAS TV

If you're looking forward to snuggling up in front of the TV this Christmas, you'll find this *London Weekly News* guide a handy companion as you plan your holiday viewing.

There are all of the usual Yuletide offerings, including the soaps vying for top spot on Christmas Day and the *Doctor Who* Christmas special which this year will see the return of the Doctor's beloved wife River Song.

For musicals fans there are a plethora of jazz hands to choose from, with *The Sound of Music Live!* on ITV on December 20 and *Gypsy* with the multi award winning Imelda Staunton on December 27.

We've also got the pick of this year's films, including some almost compulsory family viewing.

DRAMA

Doctor Who

IT seems like *Doctor Who* is making up for the death of Clara Oswald (Jenna Coleman) by unleashing a truly special Christmas episode this year. The show will mark the return of Alex Kingston as the Doctor's beloved wife River Song, in the episode entitled *The Husbands of River Song*.

It's Christmas Day on a remote human colony and the Doctor is hiding from Christmas carols and comedy antlers. But when a crashed spaceship calls upon the Doctor for help, he finds himself recruited into River Song's squad and hurled into a fast and frantic chase across the galaxy. King Hydroflax (Greg Davies) is furious, and his giant Robot bodyguard is out-of-control and coming for them all! Will Nardole (Matt Lucas) survive? And when will River Song work out who the Doctor is?

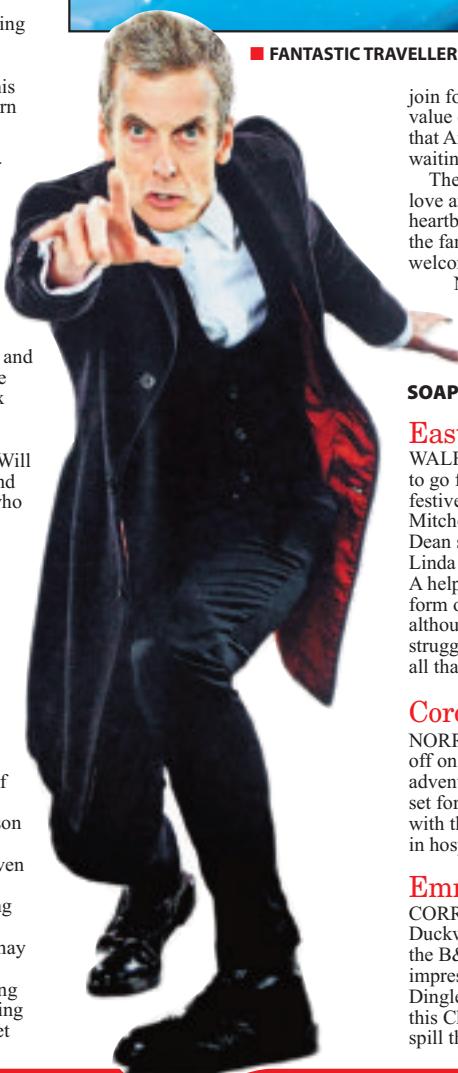
Downton Abbey

Romance abounds in the final episode of *Downton Abbey*, but for some the year's end is bitter-sweet.

Mary endeavours to build bridges but Edith's secret continues to pose a threat, even after she thought there was nothing left to lose.

As Henry settles into the role of husband, scars left by Charlie's death are slow to heal, while Carson struggles to come to terms with developments which prove that even he is not invulnerable to change.

Spratt's successful moonlighting venture is threatened by the conniving of Denker, and Daisy may have missed her chance with an admirer. Isobel receives devastating news and when the Greys' scheming takes a sinister turn, she and Violet



FOOD

MARK HIX'S RECIPE OF THE WEEK

Smoked eel with horseradish potatoes and crispy bacon

Serves 6

EL stocks are much healthier than they were a few years back and I'm quite happy to serve it on special occasions.

Eel is one of my favourite smoked fish and it has a lot of flexibility as to how it's served – it's even great in a

sandwich. I prefer to buy and serve my smoked eel on the bone. You can buy it from severnandwye.co.uk

Ingredients

- 8-10 new potatoes, cooked in their skins and then peeled
- A piece of fresh horseradish 40-60g, peeled and grated
- 1tbsp crème fraîche
- 2-3 spring onions, finely chopped
- 1tbsp good quality mayonnaise
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper
- 200-250g smoked eel fillet
- A handful of land cress or similar

leaves like rocket
■ 8-10 slices of rindless streaky bacon, crisply grilled then finely chopped

Method

Cut the potatoes into rough chunks then mix them along with the horseradish, crème fraîche, spring onions and mayonnaise, and season to taste.

To serve, spoon the potatoes on to serving plates, cut the eel into 3-4cm pieces and arrange on the potatoes with the leaves, then scatter the bacon over.



Nicky Sweetland's pick of the viewing highlights



■ FANTASTIC TRAVELLERS: *Polar Express*, above, and *Doctor Who*, inset below left.

join forces. Robert must learn the value of independence, while the day that Anna and Bates have been waiting for arrives.

The last ever episode offers all the love and loss, happiness and heartbreak of *Downton Abbey*, and as the family and servants prepare to welcome 1926 with an unforgettable

New Year's Eve we will share our final two hours in their company, and reflect on the ending of a television event.

SOAP

Eastenders

WALFORD isn't known as the place to go for Christmas cheer and this festive season is no different, with the Mitchells and Beales at war, and Dean seeking revenge on Mick and Linda as they prepare to tie the knot. A helping of joy does come in the form of a baby boy however, although with a potential paternal struggle, it doesn't look like it will be all that merry for Stacey.

Coronation Street

NORRIS is displeased as Emily takes off on her South American adventures, and Fizz and Tyrone are set for an emotional rollercoaster with the prospect of Hope remaining in hospital and missing the festivities.

Emmerdale

CORRIE Legend Liz Dawn (aka Vera Duckworth) puts in an appearance at the B&B and Pollard gives a good impression of Scrooge, but the Dingles are in the thick of the action this Christmas with Belle bursting to spill the beans about Joanie and Zak.



Hollyoaks

THERE are two special hour-long episodes on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve with Ste and John Paul taking the spotlight during the Christmas Eve special. The dangerous Freddie Roscoe will make his exciting return as Reenie and Porsche prepare to leave.

FILMS – TOP FIVE PICKS

1 Christmas Eve – *The Polar Express*

TV 5.25-7.25pm
In this beautifully animated tale a boy finds his belief in Father Christmas is restored by an incredible journey to the North Pole on board a magical train. This is a must-see movie for the whole family to enjoy.



■ ROAR ENERGY: *Jurassic Park*, *Boxing Day*, ITV. Above: *Downton Abbey's* grand finale is at 8.45pm on ITV on Christmas Day.



Christmas Talk Of The Town



■ MAGIC AND MYSTERY: The witch proves suitably beguiling when she confronts our returning hero.

This life of Brian will be a family favourite

The Tinderbox *****

I AM starting to wish my children were still at the right age for some of the wonderful productions on offer for families in London this Christmas, writes Nicky Sweetland.

The latest offering is a musical by Mandy Holliday, based on the Hans Christian Andersen festive story *The Tinderbox*, which has just opened at the Charing Cross Theatre.

The fable follows Brian the Brave, a soldier who returns from war penniless and happens to come across a witch who promises him fortune and fame.

With a fantastic set made from oversized books and a programme which includes a fully illustrated storybook,

there's an enchanting feel even before the performers take to the stage. When they do, audiences are treated to one of the best family shows I've seen.

Filled with magical fun, simple song and plenty of laughter, *The Tinderbox* provides everything you would want from a Christmas production, with just the right level of humour and four extremely talented cast members who exude verve and energy for the show's entirety.

There's the perfect amount of audience interaction and with a classical soundtrack the musical has a very authentic, seasoned charm.

The Tinderbox runs at the Charing Cross Theatre until January 3. For more details you can visit the theatre's website – charingcrosstheatre.co.uk



■ PROMISING: Samuel J Weir plays Brian the Brave. For many the standout performer in the show is Ceris Hine, right, who plays the Gold Dog for the majority of the show but demonstrates her versatility as an actor in the numerous other roles that she adopts.



COMEDY star Marcus Brigstocke is making his pantomime debut at the New Wimbledon Theatre alongside an all-star cast, writes Nicky Sweetland.

The funny man plays Captain Hook in an adaptation of JM Barrie's *Peter Pan* which has been crafted to fit the classic pantomime format but without changing the essence of the dark morality tale in which good triumphs over evil.

Brigstocke and the rest of the team are really making a stir with this reimagined classic.

He said: "It's *Peter Pan* so it's a brilliant story to begin with and then it's really over the top as

only pantomime can be."

The cast also includes *Britain's Got Talent* runners up Flawless, who make up the pirate mob and who impress with their now famously breathtaking street dance sequences.

"I mean, I knew they were good but they're jaw droppingly brilliant and very nice and very funny."

Brigstocke is also joined by comedian Jarred Christmas as Smee, who alongside Hollywood legend, Mini Me, Verne Troyer provides much of the mirth as they vie for Hook's attention.

Brigstocke is enjoying the challenge of playing the dark and

menacing Captain Hook. He explained: "I'm trying to play Captain Hook so that everybody but children particularly are just on edge of thinking 'oh, I really don't like that man. He's really scary' because I think that's how he should be. He's just such a brilliant baddie so I'm loving doing that."

With the show so true to the original story, some of the more traditional pantomime elements have been eliminated, including the Dame, the slop scene and any hint of sweetie throwing.

Brigstocke said: "JM Barrie's *Peter Pan* is one of the greatest stories of all time. It's truly an

An intimate celebration

Emma Hatton Kettner's ****

IT'S always such a treat to see top-class West End performers in a different setting and Emma Hatton made the transition from the big to the small stage look easy when she performed a one-night-only concert at the salubrious Kettner's last week.

Currently playing the green witch Elphaba in the smash hit musical *Wicked*, Emma has always had a real passion for jazz and so along with some fabulously talented friends she took to the stage to perform a cabaret set which included some Christmas classics.

Within one of the plush, oak-panelled rooms of Kettner's, which is nestled in the heart of Soho, Hatton presented a really delightful show which allowed fans to share in the warmth of her character and her prodigious singing talent. Totally at home in the very intimate surroundings, the singer talked about her love of the genre with a real fluidity and passion and thrilled with some exquisite renditions of songs like *I'll be Home for*



■ CHRISTMAS CLASSICS: From the talented Emma Hatton.

Picture: Troy David Johnston

Christmas and Water Under the Bridge by Gregory Porter, which she said she hoped was sublime – and it was.

She was accompanied by a three-piece band, which included *Wicked* musical director James Draisey on piano, and was joined by jazz superstar Anthony Strong for the duet, which features on Emma's newly released EP, entitled *Merry Christmas Darling*.

Wicked co-star, the dashing Oliver Saville, also appeared and the pair thrilled with *What Are You Doing New Years*. Another highlight was when the star combined with best friend Katie Paine, for a glorious version of the Jerome Kern serenade *Counting Your Blessings*.

Emma Hatton showed with this recital that she is fast becoming an icon and doesn't require elaborate staging in order to soar.

NICKY SWEETLAND

Captain fantastic: Marcus loves playing 'brilliant baddie'



■ TRADITIONAL ROLES: Marcus Brigstocke and Verne Troyer.

excellent story full of fascinating ideas. There's a moment in the fight near the end when I come barreling down stairs and I've been fighting Pan with all my might but still nothing and I say 'this is some sort of fiend I am fighting. Who and what art thou?' Pan leaps in the air and says 'I am youth, I am joy' and I love that it's got those bits of the classic narrative and it's quite right, particularly in this day and age that youth and joy should win the day.'

Peter Pan runs at the New Wimbledon Theatre until January 10. For more details visit the website atgickets.com

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LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 29

(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) (PLAY STREET)(NO.2) ORDER 20**

TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC ON PLAYGROUNDS

1. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham propose to make the above-mentioned Orders under Sections 29 and 31 and Sections 6 and 124 and Part IV of Schedule 9 to the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 as amended.
2. The general effect of the Hammersmith and Fulham (Prohibition of Traffic)(Play Street)(No.2) Order 20** would be to prohibit vehicles from entering, stopping or remaining at rest in the designated play street area during Play Street hours.
3. Whilst the event is in progress, or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, no person shall cause any vehicle to proceed, stop, wait, load or unload in a Galloway Road between its junctions with Dunraven Road and Uxbridge Road.
4. The "Play street" event will lead to closure of Galloway Road in the afternoon on one Sunday of every month for a period not exceeding 3 hours to enable children to use the location as a temporary playground.
5. Access will be maintained for residents' vehicles and vehicles will be escorted by a steward to their destination.
6. A copy of the proposed Orders, the Council's statement of reasons for proposing to make the Orders and documents giving more detailed particulars of the proposed Orders, can be inspected during normal office hours on Mondays to Fridays inclusive until the end of a period of 6 weeks beginning with the date on which the Orders are made, or as the case may be, the Council decides not to make the Orders.
7. Any person wishing to object to the proposed Orders or make other representations should send a statement in writing to the following address:
Transport and Technical Services Group, Highways and Engineering Division, Environment Department, Town Hall Extension, King Street, Hammersmith, W6 9JU until the expiration of 21 days from the date on which the notice is published.

Dated this 11th day of December 2015

Chris Bainbridge
Head of Transport Policy & Network Management
Transport & Technical Services

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LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

SECTION 14(1)

(BULWER STREET)

TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC

- The Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham hereby gives notice that in order to facilitate utility works to be carried out in the above named road, it intends to make an Order the effect of which would prohibit vehicular traffic in a section of the above named road.
- Whilst works are in progress, or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, no person shall cause any vehicle to proceed, stop, wait, load or unload in a section of Bulwer Street between its junctions with Aldine Street and Wood Lane.
- An alternative route for traffic in article 2 would be in place via Aldine Street, Uxbridge Road, Shepherd's bush Green and Wood Lane.
- Exemptions would be provided in the Order to permit reasonable access to premises, so far as it is practical without interference with the execution of the said work and for works vehicles, any vehicle being used in connection with police, fire or ambulance purposes and anything done with the permission or at the direction of a police constable in uniform.
- The Order would come into operation on the 3rd February 2016 and would be valid for a maximum period of 18 months or until works are completed, whichever is the sooner.
- Works would be expected to commence on Wednesday 3rd February 2016 and last for 2 weeks. The dates specified are for guidance and informative purposes only and works may extend outside these dates.

Dated this 16th day of December 2015.

Chris Bainbridge
Head of Transport Policy & Network Management
Transport & Technical Services

LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

SECTION 14(1)

(MENDORA ROAD)

TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC

- The Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham hereby gives notice that in order to facilitate the installation of a Sustainable Urban Drainage System in Mendora Road, it intends to make an Order the effect of which would prohibit traffic in the above named road.
- Whilst works are in progress, or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, no person shall cause any vehicle to proceed, stop, wait, load or unload in Mendora Road.
- An alternative route for traffic in article 2 would be in place via Pelant Road, Delaford Street or Prothero Road and Rylston Road.
- Exemptions would be provided in the Order to permit reasonable access to premises, so far as it is practical without interference with the execution of the said work and for works vehicles, any vehicle being used in connection with police, fire or ambulance purposes and anything done with the permission or at the direction of a police constable in uniform.
- The Order would come into operation on Monday, 11th January 2016 and would be valid for a maximum period of 18 months or until works are completed, whichever is the sooner.
- Works would be expected to carried out in four phases, with phase 1 commencing on Monday, 11th January 2016 and phase four completing on Sunday 31st July 2016. The dates specified are for guidance and informative purposes only and works may extend outside these dates.

Dated this 15th day of December 2015.

Chris Bainbridge
Head of Transport Policy & Network Management
Transport & Technical Services

LICENSING ACT 2003

Notice of Application for the Grant of a Premises Licence
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Stephanie Eschler of Biowine.me Sarl, has applied to the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea for the GRANT of the supply of wine under 15% alcohol content to be stocked for online sales ONLY for the premises Flat 3 situated at 31 Elvaston Place, SW7 5NL.

Supply of alcohol - Off the premises: Monday-Sunday from: 00:00 to: 24:00. Premises will not be open to the public and working hours will remain 9:00am to 5:00pm on working days. A register of licensing applications is held by the Licensing Authority and can be inspected at <http://www.rbkc.gov.uk/environmentaltransport/licensing/licensingregisters.aspx> or at Council Offices, 37 Pembroke Road, W8 6PW, by appointment with the Licensing Team between 10am and 4pm Monday to Friday.

Any person wishing to submit representations to my/our application must give notice in writing to Licensing Authority address shown above, giving in detail the grounds of objection by Thursday the 31st of December 2015. The Council will not entertain representations where the writer requests that his identity remains anonymous. Copies of all representations will be included in the papers presented to the Licensing Sub-Committee and will therefore pass into the public domain.

Representations must relate to one of the four Licensing Objectives: the prevention of crime and disorder, public safety, the prevention of public nuisance and the protection of children from harm. In the case of an application for a statement of principle, please note that representations will be restricted once a statement has been issued.

It is an offence liable on conviction to a fine up to Level 5 on the standard scale under Section 158 of the Licensing Act 2003 to knowingly or recklessly make a false statement in connection with this application.

Dated this Wednesday 2nd of December 2015

To advertise in the

Classified Section

Tel: 020 8768 4919

LICENSING ACT 2003

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR VARIATION OF PREMISES LICENCE

NOTICE IS GIVEN THAT The Chelsea Food And Wine Company Limited has applied to Westminster City Council on 7th December 2015 to vary the premises licence at Shaftesbury Food And Wine Avenue House, 25-27 Shaftesbury Avenue, London, W1D 7EQ so as to include the licensable activity of Late Night Refreshment from 23:00 to 01:00 Monday to Sunday and increase as more particularly set out in the application.

Any person who wishes to make a representation in relation to this application must give notice in writing to: **Licensing, Westminster City Council, 4th Floor, City Hall, 64 Victoria Street SW1E 6QP** to be received by no later than 14th January 2016 stating the grounds for making said representation.

A record of the application can be inspected on the Council's website www.westminster.gov.uk or at the above address during office hours. The register can be viewed at the above address during office hours.

It is an offence, under section 158 of the Licensing Act 2003, to knowingly or recklessly make a false statement in or in connection with an application for a premises licence and the maximum fine on being convicted of such an offence is £5,000.

Thomas & Thomas Partners LLP
38a Monmouth Street, London
WC2H 9EP
www.tandtp.com

LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

SECTION 14(1)

(MELINA ROAD)

TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC

- The Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham hereby gives notice that in order to facilitate the installation of a Sustainable Urban Drainage System in Melina Road, it intends to make an Order the effect of which would prohibit traffic in the above named road.
- Whilst works are in progress, or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, no person shall cause any vehicle to proceed, stop, wait, load or unload in Melina Road.
- An alternative route for traffic in article 2 would not be required.
- Exemptions would be provided in the Order to permit reasonable access to premises, so far as it is practical without interference with the execution of the said work and for works vehicles, any vehicle being used in connection with police, fire or ambulance purposes and anything done with the permission or at the direction of a police constable in uniform.
- The Order would come into operation on Monday, 11th January 2016 and would be valid for a maximum period of 18 months or until works are completed, whichever is the sooner.
- Works would be expected to carried out in two phases, with phase 1 commencing on Monday, 11th January 2016 and phase 2 completing on Sunday, 3rd April 2016. The dates specified are for guidance and informative purposes only and works may extend outside these dates.

Dated this 15th day of December 2015
Chris Bainbridge
Head of Transport Policy & Network Management
Transport & Technical Services

LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

SECTION 14(1)

(GOLDHAWK ROAD III)

TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC

- The Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham hereby gives notice that in order to facilitate crane operation works in the Goldhawk Road, it is proposing to make an Order the effect of which would prohibit traffic in the above named road.
- Whilst works are in progress, or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, no person shall cause any vehicle to proceed, stop, wait, load or unload in the eastbound carriageway of Goldhawk Road between its junctions with Greenside Road and Wingate Road.
- An alternative route for traffic in article 2 would be in place via Paddenswick Road, Glenthorne Road, Beadon Road and Shepherds Bush Road.
- Exemptions would be provided in the Order to permit reasonable access to premises, so far as it is practical without interference with the execution of the said work and for works vehicles, any vehicle being used in connection with police, fire or ambulance purposes and anything done with the permission or at the direction of a police constable in uniform.
- The Order would come into operation on Saturday, 16th January 2016 and would be valid for a maximum period of 18 months or until works are completed, whichever is the sooner.
- Works would be expected to commence on Saturday, 16th January 2016 and last for 2 days with back up dates scheduled for 23rd & 24th January 2016. The dates specified are for guidance and informative purposes only and works may extend outside these dates.

Dated this 15th day of December 2015.
Chris Bainbridge
Head of Transport Policy & Network Management
Transport & Technical Services

LICENSING ACT 2003

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR VARIATION OF PREMISES LICENCE

NOTICE IS GIVEN THAT The Chelsea Food And Wine Company Limited has applied to Westminster City Council on 7th December 2015 to vary the premises licence at 12 Cumberland Food & Wine, 11 Great Cumberland Place, London, W1H 7AL so as to include the licensable activity of Late Night Refreshment from 23:00 to 01:00 Monday to Sunday and increase to the opening hours accordingly, as more particularly set out in the application.

Any person who wishes to make a representation in relation to this application must give notice in writing to: **Licensing, Westminster City Council, 4th Floor, City Hall, 64 Victoria Street SW1E 6QP** to be received by no later than 14th January 2016 stating the grounds for making said representation.

A record of the application can be inspected on the Council's website www.westminster.gov.uk or at the above address during office hours. The register can be viewed at the above address during office hours.

It is an offence, under section 158 of the Licensing Act 2003, to knowingly or recklessly make a false statement in or in connection with an application for a premises licence and the maximum fine on being convicted of such an offence is £5,000.

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CONDITIONS OF ACCEPTANCE FOR ALL ADVERTISEMENTS

Orders are accepted by the Publishers subject to the Standard Conditions agreed between the Newspaper Society and the Institute of Practitioners in Advertising. See that:

1. Advertisements are accepted on the conditions that (a) descriptions relating to goods are accurate and in no way contravene the provisions of the Trade Descriptions Act 1968, and the Fair Trading Act 1973, and (b) the copy complies with the British Code of Advertising Practice. Advertisements offering credit or hire facilities must conform to the Consumer Credit (Advertisement) Regulations 1980.
2. 'Classified' Advertisers offering goods or service of a business, commercial or trade nature will, at the discretion of the Publishers, be deemed 'Trade Advertisers', and as such, must include their names in advertisements. A telephone number is an optional addition to these requirements and not an alternative.
3. To comply with the Business Advertisements (Disclosure) Order 1977, Trade Advertisers must make it clear that they are selling goods in the course of business either by content, format, size or place of the advertisement or by including words such as 'trade', 'dealer', 'agent', 'wholesaler', '(T)' etc. in the advertisement.
4. The Publishers accept no liability whatsoever for any loss or damage however caused arising out of:

- (a) Any error, inaccuracy or omission in the printing or publishing of any advertisement;
- (b) Any failure to publish an advertisement on the day / date or day / dates specified by the advertiser; or
- (c) Any delay in forwarding or omission to forward replies to box numbers to the advertiser.

4. The Publishers will endeavour to publish advertisements on the day / date or day / dates specified by the Advertiser but insertion days / dates cannot be guaranteed.

5. Where shrinkage of advertisement occurs for whatever reasons the advertisement will be charged to the nearest full centimetre. This will NOT apply to the full-page advertisements, which remain full pages even after shrinkage.

6. The Publishers reserve the right to reject an advertisement or to vary it in any way they deem fit, at any time before publication, whether or not the advertisement has already been accepted for publication.

7. Whilst every effort is made to minimise errors in advertisements, mistakes do sometimes occur. Advertisers or their agents should therefore check their advertisements and inform us of any errors immediately. Responsibility cannot be accepted for more than one incorrect insertion. Typographical or minor changes, which do not affect the value of the advertisement, do not qualify for republication or allowances.

8. All gross advertising rates (except classified lineage and semi-display) are subject to and include a 0.1% Advertising Standards Board of Finance surcharge, payable by the advertisers to help finance the self-regulatory control system administered by the Advertising Standards Authority.

9. All rates quoted are subject to VAT at the rate currently in force at the time the advertisement appears.

10. Should the rate for advertisements be altered the price for remaining insertions shall be revised accordingly or the publishers shall have the right to cancel the unexpired portion of the order.

11. The placing of an advertisement order will be deemed an acceptance of these conditions.

12. Account facilities are granted at the discretion of the Company.

13. All accounts must be settled within the terms agreed by the Company and the Customer.

14. Should an advertiser be in breach of the agreed terms, the publisher shall be entitled to levy a 10% surcharge on the value of the whole debt in respect of accounts with terms of less than 30 days, and any discounts or commissions that had been allowed will be reclaimed.

15. Regular monthly accounts that are in breach of the agreed terms will pay an interest rate of 6% above the current bank of England base rate for each month that the account is overdue and discounts or commissions that had been allowed will be reclaimed. Should Legal action be required the interest will be charged in accordance with the County Court Act 1984.

16. Where an advertiser instructs / appoints an advertising agent to act on their behalf, the advertiser will remain jointly and severally liable for payment in respect for an advertisement(s) should the appointed agent fail to pay. For the avoidance of doubt, the agent acts for the advertiser and not for the publisher with the agent being responsible for notifying the advertiser of this liability.

17. The Publisher may provide voucher copies for published advertisements in electronic form only subject to certain criteria. Further information is available on request.

18. The copyright of advertisements produced wholly or partly by the Publishers belong to the Publishers. Advertisers may not reproduce such advertisements without the Publishers' consent.

Box Numbers

Boxes are open for the receipt of bona fide answers and are not available for distribution of trade canvassing matter. Original testimonials, goods, cash, cash stamps or payments of any kind must not be enclosed. A box Number and postal address are charged as part of the advertisement, i.e. Box No., centre address. There is no charge for forwarding replies.

Box numbers alone are not available for use in 'Trade' advertisements, other than Employment and Business Opportunities.

Holiday & Travel Category

All advertising must contain the name of the advertiser, phone number alone are not permitted.

Data Protection

The service you have requested may require us to carry out a credit search at a credit-referencing agency, which will record the fact that a search has been made. We may need to share your information with other lenders and credit reference agencies. However, we will only use the information from these searches to make credit-granting decisions and, if necessary, for fraud prevention or tracing debtors.

Data controller will use your information for administration and analysis. We may share your information with other Tindle Group Newspaper companies or carefully selected third parties. We, or they, may send you details of other goods and services, which may be of interest to you. The information may be provided by letter, telephone or other reasonable means of communication. Calls may be recorded or monitored for training purposes.

Special conditions apply with regard to the advertising of adult services, which are outlined to all persons submitting such advertisements.

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London Weekly News
South London & MERCY

THE LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

The Hammersmith and Fulham (Waiting and Loading Restriction) (Consolidation) Amendment (No. *)

The Hammersmith and Fulham (Parking Places, Zone "I") (Amendment No. *) Order 20**

The Hammersmith and Fulham (Parking Places, Zone "S") (Amendment No. *) Order 20**

The Hammersmith and Fulham (Parking Places, Zone "U") (Amendment No. *) Order 20**

The Hammersmith and Fulham (Parking Places, Zone "K") (Amendment No. *) Order 20**

The Hammersmith and Fulham (Parking Places, Zone "A") (Amendment No. *) Order 20**

The Hammersmith and Fulham (Parking Places, Zone "V") (Amendment No. *) Order 20**

The Hammersmith and Fulham (Parking Places, Zone "F") (Amendment No. *) Order 20**

The Hammersmith and Fulham (Personalised Disabled Persons' Free Parking Places) (Consolidation) (Amendment No. *) Order 20**

The Hammersmith and Fulham (Free Parking Places) (Disabled Persons) (Consolidation) (Amendment No. *) Order 20**

The Hammersmith and Fulham (London Cycle Hire Scheme) (Amendment No. *) Order 20**

The Hammersmith and Fulham (Doctors Parking Places) (Amendment No. *) Order 20**

- NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham propose to make the above-mentioned Orders under the powers granted by sections 6, 45, 46, 49 and 124 of, and Part IV of Schedule 9 to, the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 as amended.
- The general effect of the Hammersmith and Fulham (Waiting and Loading Restriction) (Consolidation) (Amendment No. *) Order 20** would be to further amend the Hammersmith and Fulham (Waiting and Loading Restriction) (Consolidation) Order 2015 so that waiting and/or loading restrictions would be amended and/or introduced and/or revoked in certain lengths of Colehill Lane, Horder Road, Great Church Lane, Hestercombe Avenue, Ringmer Avenue, Swift Street, Bryony Road, King Street, St Peter's Square, Milson Road, Lochaline Street, Hythe Road, Rumbold Road, Harwood Terrace, Hurlingham Road, Sycamore Gardens, Rainville Gardens, Wendell Road, Friston Street, Sundew Avenue, Avonmore Road, Broughton Road, Shorolds Road.
- The general effect of the above proposed Parking Places Zones I, S, U, K, T, A, V, and F Orders would be to further amend each of their parent orders in so far that parking places would be amended and/or introduced and/or revoked in certain lengths of Wendell Road, Rylett Crescent, Harwood Terrace, Hurlingham Road, Broughton Road, Sycamore Gardens, Rainville Road, Bute Gardens, Sundew Avenue, Halford Road and Shorolds Road.
- The general nature and effect of the Hammersmith and Fulham (Personalised Disabled Persons' Free Parking Places) (Consolidation) (Amendment No. *) Traffic Order 20** would be to amend the Hammersmith and Fulham (Personalised Disabled Persons' Free Parking Places) (Consolidation) Traffic Order 2011 would be to:-

- introduce a designated disabled persons parking places at the most suitable location available in (Stanford Court) Stephendale Road and Munster Road.
- revoke the personalised disabled bay outside No. 159 Bentworth Road.
- the general effect of the Hammersmith and Fulham (Free Parking Places) (Disabled Persons) (Consolidation) (Amendment No. *) Order 20** would be to:-
- revoke non designated disabled persons parking places in (Stanford Court) Stephendale Road, Wardo Avenue and Valliere Road.
- install a non designated disabled persons parking place in Daisy Lane.
- the general effect of the The Hammersmith and Fulham (London Cycle Hire Scheme) (Parking Places) Order 20** would be to amend the Hammersmith and Fulham (London Cycle Hire Scheme) (Parking Places) Order 2013, so as to introduce and / or amend the schedule description of Cycle Hire Stations in Halford Road and Hurlingham Road.
- the general effect of the The Hammersmith and Fulham (Doctor Parking Places) Order 20** would be to amend the Hammersmith and Fulham (Doctor Parking Places) Order 2013, so as to revoke the docots parking place on Beltran Road
- a copy of the proposed Orders, the Councils statement of reasons for proposing to make the Orders and documents giving more detailed particulars of the proposed Orders, can be inspected during normal office hours on Mondays to Fridays inclusive until the end of a period of 6 weeks beginning with the date on which the Orders are made, or as the case may be, the Council decides not to make the Orders
- any person wishing to object to the proposed Orders or make other representations should send a statement in writing to the following address: Transport and Highways, Environment Department, Town Hall Extension, King Street, Hammersmith, W6 9JU until the expiration of 21 days from the date on which the notice is published.

Dated this 10th day of December 2015

Chris Bainbridge
Head of Transport Policy & Network Management
Transport & Technical Services

Local Planning Applications London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham

PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990

I give notice that applications have been made to the Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham as follows:

FOR DEVELOPMENT WHICH MAY AFFECT THE CHARACTER OR APPEARANCE OF A CONSERVATION AREA

6 Kilmarsh Road London W6 0PL 2015/05844/FUL

Erection of a single storey rear extension, following demolition of existing rear extension; erection of a rear extension at first floor level, over part of the existing back addition.

164 - 166 King Street London W6 0QU 2015/05643/FUL

Erection of a rear roof extension comprising of 2no dormers with glazed doors; alterations to the roof of back addition to form artificial decking and the erection of metal railings around the flat roof at third floor level to the rear elevation, in connection with the creation of 2 new roof terraces.

43 And 45 Atalanta Street London SW6 6TU 2015/05709/FUL

Erection of single storey rear extensions, to the side and rear of the existing back additions to both properties at 43 and 45 Atalanta Street.

Flat 4 Second And Third Floors 14 Sinclair Gardens London W14 0AT 2015/05735/FUL

Retention of a front and rear roof extension and roof terrace at third floor level and retention of a stair enclosure and glazed screens above the main roof in connection with its use as a roof terrace. Amended description.

27 Dewhurst Road London W14 0ES 2015/05736/VAR

Variation of Condition 2 (allowing amendments to the approved drawings) of planning permission reference: 2015/00193/FUL granted 24th March 2015 for the "erection of a rear roof extension including dormer windows to replace existing; erection of a single storey rear extension to the side and rear of the existing back addition following the demolition of the existing conservatory; excavation of the front garden and part of the rear garden to form lightwells in connection with the enlargement of the existing basement."

Amendments to include proposed side extension to have a flat roof rather than a sloping roof.

Ensor House YMCA 6 Parsons Green London SW6 4TQ 2015/05715/FUL

Demolition of the existing building and redevelopment of the site to include, erection of part one, part four, part five, part six storey building, comprising 9 x self-contained units (2 x 1 bedroom, 4 x 2 bedroom, 3 x 3 bedroom) and associated private roof terraces/balconies at first to fifth floor level, the provision of a nursery (150 sq m) (Class D1) to rear at ground floor level.

794 - 798 Fulham Road London SW6 5SL 2015/05725/ADV

Display of an externally illuminated scaffold advertisement onto the existing scaffold in front of 794 - 798 Fulham Road for a temporary period of 12 months.

21 Burlington Road London SW6 4NP 2015/05732/FUL

Retention of 2no rooflights in the front roofspace and rear roofspace; demolition of 2no chimney stacks at roof level (retroactive).

20A Paddenswick Road London W6 0UB 2015/05737/FUL

Replacement of existing roof with a new gable ended roof extension with a front dormer window; partial demolition of the single storey side extension, erection of an external staircase from basement to garden level, installation of a glass canopy over main entrance, erection of glass panels and new windows to replace the existing windows at ground floor level to the front elevation.

34 Clunbury Street London SW6 6DU 2015/05738/FUL

Erection of a rear extension at second floor level over part of the existing back addition; installation of a new window in the rear roofspace; installation of a new rooflight over the main flat roof at roof level; removal of existing rear chimney stack; erection of a bay window at first floor level on the side elevation.

22 Ackmar Road London SW6 4UP 2015/05811/FUL

Erection of a rear roof extension involving an increase in the ridge height; erection of a part one, part two storey rear extension at first and second floor level; installation of new windows to replace the existing to the side of rear back addition at first floor level.

22 Ackmar Road London SW6 4UP 2015/05812/FUL

Erection of a rear roof extension involving an increase in the ridge height; erection of a part one, part two storey rear extension at first and second floor level; installation of new windows to replace the existing to the side of rear back addition at first floor level; installation of French doors to rear elevation at second floor level; Juliet balconies at first floor level to the rear elevation; replacement of 1no window to the rear and side elevations at ground floor level with new windows.

92 Settrington Road London SW6 3BA 2015/05321/FUL

Erection of a single storey rear extension to the side of the existing back addition; and excavation of the front garden and part of the rear garden to form lightwells, in connection with the creation of a new basement.

70 Emlyn Road London W12 9TD 2015/05619/FUL

Erection of a rear and side dormer roof extension; erection of a rear extension at first floor level, on top of the existing back addition; installation of French doors and Juliet balconies at first floor level to the rear elevation; replacement of 1no window to the rear and side elevations at ground floor level with new windows.

30 Niton Street London SW6 6NQ 2015/04991/FUL

Erection of a rear roof extension; erection of a rear extension at second floor level over part of the existing back addition; erection of a single storey rear extension, to the side and rear of the existing back addition; excavation of the front and rear garden to form lightwells in connection with the creation of a new basement.

49 And 90 Fitzneat Street London W12 0BB 2015/05718/FUL

Erection of a single storey rear extension to replace existing to the side of the existing back addition at No.96; excavation of the front gardens and part of the rear gardens to form lightwells, in connection with the creation of new basements at No.s 94 and 96; and installation of bi-folding doors at ground floor level to the rear elevation of No.94.

4 Chipstead Street London SW6 3SS 2015/05719/FUL

Erection of a rear extension at second floor level over part of the existing back addition; erection of a single storey rear extension to the side and rear of the existing back addition, following the demolition of the existing ground floor extension; excavation of the front garden and part of the rear garden, to enlarge the existing front lightwell and include the formation of an external front staircase, and to form a rear lightwell, in connection with the enlargement of the existing basement; and installation of 1no. air-conditioning unit on the flat roof above the proposed second floor rear extension.

FOR CONSERVATION AREA CONSENT (DEMOLITION WORK)

FOR LISTED BUILDING CONSENT

Olympia Exhibition Centre Hammersmith Road London W14 8UX 2015/05818/LBC

Refurbishment of existing staircase between ground and third floor level; remodelling of stair entry doors and lobbies at 1st and 2nd floor and dry lining of third floor landing and lift shaft including ceiling; addition of painted MDF portals to foyer doors to staircase and provision of new LED signage displays at staircase entry and exit points at each level and over lifts at every level.

FOR DEVELOPMENT WHICH MAY AFFECT THE SETTING OR CONTEXT OF A LISTED BUILDING

Bootsy Brogans 1 Fulham Broadway London SW6 1AA 2015/05745/ADV

Display of 1no. externally illuminated backlit single raised letter fascia sign (measuring 4000mm wide and 435mm high) to replace existing; display of 2no. externally illuminated logo fascia signs (measuring 585mm wide by 435mm high) to replace existing; and display of 1no. non-illuminated projecting sign (measuring 545mm wide by 435mm high) to replace existing.

3 Hazlitt Mews London W14 0JJ 2015/05679/FUL

Erection of an additional flat at roof level; alterations to the front fenestration to include installation of a Juliet balcony at first floor level, installation of new doors, sliding shutter and timber screen to replace the existing doors at ground floor level to the front elevation.

40 Crondale Road London SW6 4BT 2015/05706/FUL

Excavation of the front garden to form a lightwell in connection with the enlargement of the existing basement.

Bootsy Brogans 1 Fulham Broadway London SW6 1AA 2015/05745/ADV

Display of 1no. externally illuminated backlit single raised letter fascia sign (measuring 4000mm wide and 435mm high) to

replace existing; display of 2no. externally illuminated logo fascia signs (measuring 585mm wide by 435mm high) to replace existing; and display of 1no. non-illuminated projecting sign (measuring 545mm wide by 435mm high) to replace existing.

88 Cartwheel Road London W6 0DX 2015/05693/FUL

Erection of a front and rear roof extension; erection of a 1.7 metre high laminated glazed screen around the flat roof of the existing two storey back addition at second floor level, in connection with its use as a roof terrace; and installation of a door in the rear elevation at second floor level to provide access to this proposed roof terrace.

7 St Stephen's Avenue London W12 8JB 2015/05713/FUL

Erection of a front and rear roof extension including an infill extension within the ridge and valley roof section; erection of an extension at upper ground floor level to the existing single storey side extension; and erection of a single storey rear infill extension at lower ground floor level to the side of the existing back addition.

42 Nasmyth Street London W6 0HB 2015/03794/FUL

Replacement of existing single glazed windows with new double glazed windows to all elevations at ground and first floor level; replacement of existing single glazed door with a new double glazed door on the side elevation at ground floor level (REVISED DESCRIPTION).

68 And 70 Waldemar Avenue London SW6 5LU 2015/05547/FUL

Erection of an additional flat at roof level; installation of French doors to rear elevation at second floor level; erection of glass screening around flat roofs at second floor level in connection with there use as a terrace.

164 - 166 King Street London W6 0QU 2015/05643/FUL

Installation of 4no rooflights in the front roofspace.

70 Emlyn Road London W12 9TD 2015/05619/FUL

Erection of a rear and side dormer roof extension; erection of a rear extension at first floor level, on top of the existing back addition; installation of French doors and Juliet balconies at first floor level to the rear elevation; replacement of 1no window to the rear and side elevations at ground floor level with new windows.

30 Niton Street London SW6 6NQ 2015/04991/FUL

Erection of a rear roof extension; erection of a rear extension at second floor level over part of the existing back addition; erection of a single storey rear extension, to the side and rear of the existing back addition; excavation of the front and rear garden to form lightwells in connection with the creation of a new basement.

49 And 90 Fitzneat Street London W12 0BB 2015/05718/FUL

Erection of a single storey rear extension to replace existing to the side of the existing back addition at No.96; excavation of the front gardens and part of the rear gardens to form lightwells, in connection with the creation of new basements at No.s 94 and 96; and installation of bi-folding doors at ground floor level to the rear elevation of No.94.

4 And 9 Fitzneat Street London W12 0BB 2015/05718/FUL

Erection of a single storey rear extension; erection of a single storey lower ground floor extension, to the side of the existing back addition; excavation of the front and rear garden to form lightwells in connection with the creation of a new basement.

49 And 90 Fitzneat Street London W12 0BB 2015/05718/FUL

Erection of a single storey rear extension to replace existing to the side of the existing back addition at No.96; excavation of the front gardens and part of the rear gardens to form lightwells, in connection with the creation of new basements at No.s 94 and 96; and installation of bi-folding doors at ground floor level to the rear elevation of No.94.

4 Chipstead Street London SW6 3SS 2015/05719/FUL

Erection of a rear extension at second floor level over part of the existing back addition; erection of a single storey rear extension to the side and rear of the existing back addition; excavation of the front and rear garden to form lightwells in connection with the creation of new basements at No.s 94 and 96; and installation of bi-folding doors at ground floor level to the rear elevation of No.94.

4 Chipstead Street London SW6 3SS 2015/05719/FUL

Erection of a rear extension at second floor level over part of the existing back addition; erection of a single storey rear extension to the side and rear of the existing back addition; excavation of the front and rear garden to form lightwells in connection with the creation of new basements at No.s 94 and 96; and installation of bi-folding doors at ground floor level to the rear elevation of No.94.

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739A Fulham Road London SW6 5UL 2015/05754/ADV

I give notice that Mr Ben Hillier is applying to HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM COUNCIL for planning permission to carry out the following development: Display of 1no externally illuminated projecting sign and 1no externally illuminated fascia signs fronting Eppie Road elevation.

54 Shorolds Road London SW6 7TP 2015/05674/FUL

I give notice that Mr Mark Drysdale is applying to HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM COUNCIL for planning permission to carry out the following development: Erection of a single storey lower ground floor rear extension, to the side of the existing back addition; erection of a rear roof extension; erection of obscured glass screening around the flat roof at third floor level for use as a terrace in connection with the change of use from single dwelling house to 1x1 bedroom, 2x2 bedroom self contained flats.

863 - 865 Harrow Road London NW10 5NC 2015/05465/FUL

I give notice that Mr Bill Stevenson is applying to HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM COUNCIL for planning permission to carry out the following development: Erection of a rear roof extension at second floor level over part of the existing back addition; erection of a single storey rear extension, to the side and rear of the existing back addition; erection of a rear roof extension; erection of obscured glass screening around the flat roof at third floor level for use as a terrace in connection with the change of use from single dwelling house to 1x1 bedroom, 2x2 bedroom self contained flats.

4 Chipstead Street London SW6 3SS 2015/05719/FUL

I give notice that Mr Bill Stevenson is applying to HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM COUNCIL for planning permission to carry out the following development: Erection of a rear roof extension at second floor level over part of the existing back addition; erection of a single storey rear extension, to the side and rear of the existing back addition; erection of a rear roof extension; erection of obscured glass screening around the flat roof at third floor level for use as a terrace in connection with the change of use from single dwelling house to 1x1 bedroom, 2x2 bedroom self contained flats.

4 Chipstead Street London SW6 3SS 2015/05719/FUL

I give notice that Mr Bill Stevenson is applying to HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM COUNCIL for planning permission to carry out the following development: Erection of a rear roof extension at second floor level over part of the existing back addition; erection of a single storey rear extension, to the side and rear of the existing back addition; erection of a rear roof extension; erection of obscured glass screening around the flat roof at third floor level for use as a terrace in connection with the change of use from single dwelling house to 1x1 bedroom, 2x2 bedroom self contained flats.

4 Chipstead Street London SW6 3SS 2015/05719/FUL

I give notice that Mr Bill Stevenson is applying to HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM COUNCIL for planning permission to carry out the following development: Erection of a rear roof extension at second floor level over part of the existing back addition; erection of a single storey rear extension, to the side and rear of the existing back addition; erection of a rear roof extension; erection of obscured glass

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St Paul's C.E. Primary School

Penrose Street, Walworth, SE17 3DT
Tel: 020 7703 4896
Email: sbettinelli.210@lgfmail.org
Headteacher: Dr. Maggie Brady

The Appointment: Learning Mentor

Required for February 2016

Hay Grade 20-28 according to experience
35 hours per week. Term-Time Only
(including in-service training days)

The Governing Body would like to appoint an enthusiastic, highly motivated and committed Learning Mentor to join our welcoming and friendly school. We are looking for a dynamic learning mentor who can support our pupils to remove barriers to learning, such as attendance, child protection, emotional and mental wellbeing or academic progress.

In addition to direct work with children and families, you will lead on school community events and will support parents and community members to be actively involved in the wider life of the school.

We can offer:

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Please contact the school by email for application form.

Closing date: 8th January 2016
Interviews: To be confirmed

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St Paul's C.E. Primary School

Penrose Street, Walworth, SE17 3DT.
Tel: 020 7703 4896 Email: sbettinelli.210@lgfmail.org
Headteacher: Dr. Maggie Brady

The Appointment: Teaching Assistant/SEN Support

Required for February 2016 – The appointment for the specific purpose of an Education Health Care Plan of a child and will automatically cease should their needs change or if they leave the school.

Hay Grade 17-20 according to experience and qualifications.

30 hours per week. Term-Time Only (including in-service training days).

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What is essential:-

- Previous experience of working with children (desirable for the applicant to hold relevant qualifications: level 3 or any other further training that is relevant;
 - A willingness to learn;
 - A readiness to work alongside all children within the class;
 - Flexibility;
 - Capable of showing initiative;
 - Friendly, approachable manner;
 - Good communication skills;
 - Supportive of our school ethos.

Please contact the school by email for application form.

St Paul's is committed to the safeguarding of children and this position is subject to satisfactory references and an enhanced DBS check. Visits to the school are encouraged and can be arranged by contacting the school office.

Deadline: Friday 8th January 2016 Interview dates: Tuesday 13th January 2016

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Junior boosted by Hasselbaink faith

JUNIOR Hoilett is the first Queens Park Rangers player to see his stuttering career reignited by new manager Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink.

The 25-year-old Canadian international right-winger gave QPR a 56th minute lead with a well-struck drive at Bristol City on Saturday, although R's had to settle for their third draw in a week under their new boss after Aaron Wilbraham equalised with 10 minutes to play at Ashton Gate.

Hasselbaink said: "I was very pleased with Junior Hoilett's contribution. He's getting back to where he used to be. He's a very good player, a

confidence player who needs somebody to believe in him.

"We definitely do. We definitely like him. He's one who can create and score goals. Today, he did ever so well."

Hoilett, featuring in only nine of 22 league games this season and having been regularly left out of the side by three different managers in the past year, told www.qpr.co.uk: "I was pleased with my goal, even though it was disappointing to concede late on.

"We came out on the

front foot in the second half and, after my goal, we had chances to kill the game. Unfortunately, it wasn't to be.

"It was a shame, I thought I'd scored again just before they did. I hit the crossbar after a good strike. But we'll take the point and move forward. There were a lot of positives to take out of the game."

R's travel to Ipswich Town on Boxing Day seeking their first win since Hasselbaink's appointment. The draw in Bristol followed the home midweek 2-2 thriller against then league leaders Brighton and the goalless stalemate with Burnley that began the Dutchman's reign in W12.

Rescue act

Once again, Hoops needed Charlie Austin to produce yet another rescue act after Brighton had taken a 2-0 lead. Starting his first match in a month, the powerful centre-forward scored his ninth and 10th goals of the season in the last 25 minutes to earn a potentially vital point for his side.

Afterwards, Hasselbaink again faced media questions about his No.1 striker's future with the club and his response highlighted the massive dilemma facing the west London club's owners.

Do they cash in on their most valuable asset in January and use the money generated by his sale to try and strengthen the team, especially in attacking areas?

Or do they rebuff any offers to prise him away



LOFTUS ROAD RANGERS REVIEW

With Tony McDonald

and hope he can stay fit enough to score the goals that could elevate QPR to the play-offs . . . only to risk seeing him walk away for nothing in the summer when his current contract expires?

Hasselbaink said: "In football there are no guarantees and everybody wants to make a profit. At the end of the day it's a business. But do we want to sell him? No.

"It's up to the owners and as a manager I can only advise and can only say: 'No, I don't want him to leave – I need him', and I think they would respect that."

But potential interest in Austin from other clubs could be tempered by muscle problems that have forced him to miss six league matches already this season. Austin, who scored 18 times in last season's relegation campaign, didn't travel to Bristol last weekend after picking up a hamstring injury in

training, less than 48 hours after his double against Brighton.

Hasselbaink explained: "Charlie felt a little tweak and we didn't want to take a risk. He will be assessed tomorrow or Monday, then we'll know more. Hopefully he'll be back soon.

"We have a squad and you have to trust your squad. You can't rely on just 11 players in a season – it is about everybody. The people who got a chance today did well."

Hasselbaink added: "In the first half, Bristol City put us under some pressure. However, although they had a lot of possession, they didn't work our keeper too much.

"In the second half, I thought we were the better team. We created chances and their keeper made some good saves.

"We scored and we looked in control. But they had one moment towards the end and played it well."



■ JIMMY Hill about to net from Roy Bentley's pass against Bristol Rovers

Fulham's huge debt to Jimmy

■ IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO OVERSTATE THE IMPACT JIMMY HILL, WHO DIED LAST SATURDAY AT THE AGE OF 87 FOLLOWING A LONG BATTLE WITH ALZHEIMER'S, HAD ON FULHAM FC IN ANY NUMBER OF HIS MANY GUISES.

Thanks largely to trailblazer Hill, Craven Cottage great Johnny Haynes became the game's biggest earner.

And but for the intervention and influence of the ubiquitous former player, chairman and TV pundit, Whites would now be called Fulham Park Rangers and playing at QPR's home ground.

How's that for a sobering thought for all Fulham supporters to ponder this Christmas . . .

Born in Balham, south London, Hill appeared briefly for Fulham juniors in 1943 but didn't become a professional until May 1949, when he signed for Brentford. He went on to score 10 goals in 86 appearances for the Bees, mostly from wing-half.

Hill joined Fulham in March 1952 as a half-back, moving to the inside-right position when Bobby Robson was sold to West Bromwich Albion. He was no playmaker in the mould of Haynes but his hard-working style enabled his more skilful colleagues the opportunity to shine.

Hill helped Fulham reach the FA Cup semi-final against Manchester United in 1958, scoring in every round, including the defeat at Villa Park.

Equalled club record

The following season he made 32 appearances as Whites returned to Division One. By scoring five times at Doncaster Rovers in March 1958, he equalled the club record for goals in a single game.

As chairman of the Professional Footballers' Association, Hill played a major part in the scrapping of the £20-per-week maximum wage. This momentous decision, taken by The Football League in 1961, led to Fulham team-mate Haynes becoming the first £100-a-week player.

After a 12-year playing career, Hill was forced to retire in June 1961 due to a knee injury. In total, he played 297 times in the league and cup for Fulham, scoring 52 goals.

The following November he became

manager of Coventry City, where in six years he led the Sky Blues from the old Division Three to the top flight. Under his leadership, Highfield Road became the first English all-seater football stadium, while his other innovations included the first colour match day programme in English football, pre-game entertainment and an electronic scoreboard.

In 1967 he moved into broadcasting as head of sport for ITV, helping revamp the way football was presented on television. He was at the forefront of football punditry, introducing the panel of personalities who brought such added entertainment to ITV's coverage of the 1970 World Cup in Mexico.

Beard and chin

In tandem with studio presenter and commentator Brian Moore, Jimmy's tactical observations – along with his trademark beard and chin – became a familiar feature of Sunday afternoon's *The Big Match* show. He also had a spell as commercial manager at Fulham around this time.

Jimmy moved to the BBC in 1973 and became presenter of *Match of the Day*. He presented the programme more than 600 times before joining Sky Sports in 1999. His *Sunday Supplement* show, where he was joined by a small group of scribes to debate the burning issues of the week around the breakfast table, was one of the most thought-provoking programmes ever presented on the game.

Hill returned to Coventry as managing director in April 1975, before becoming the chairman.

Hill also successfully lobbied for the introduction of the three-points-for-a-win system in 1981 and fought for the right for clubs to wear sponsors' logos on their shirts.

After a spell as chairman at Charlton Athletic, Hill returned to Fulham, helping form the consortium that saved the club when property speculators tried to merge the Whites with Queens Park Rangers in 1987.

Fulham held on to Craven Cottage and Hill stepped down as chairman in 1997, when Mohamed Al Fayed took over.

How Fulham fans would love Jimmy to be leading the club now.



■ CHARLIE Austin poses a tricky dilemma for QPR

FOOTBALL FIXTURES

Saturday, December 26

CHELSEA v Watford, 3.00
Derby County v FULHAM, 3.00
Ipswich Town v QPR, 3.00

Monday, December 28

Manchester United v CHELSEA, 5.30
Huddersfield Town v QPR, 3.00

Tuesday, December 29

FULHAM v Rotherham United, 7.45

Friday, January 1

QPR v Hull City, 5.15

Saturday, January 2

FULHAM v Sheffield Wednesday, 3.00

Sunday, January 3

Crystal Palace v CHELSEA, 1.30

Hiddink in to 'shake things up'

Continued from back page

"The win over Sunderland is a step in the right direction, where we want to be and that's climbing the table. For Chelsea, the big club that we are, it's an unacceptable position and, unfortunately, the manager loses his job because of that.

"I've been here before," he said. "We had this game two days after the manager got sacked. So we can't sulk because we could have been 18th (in the league), further and further down the league table, and you can't be like that. Listen, if there was the opportunity to get rid of players, I'm sure a lot of clubs would have done that. But that's not the case and it fell on the manager's head. There is nothing we could do about that.

"We thank him for all that he has done.

A few of us have done that, individually, and collectively as well. We will never forget that.

"But as a club and players, we have to turn out performances and pick up three points."

Pick us up

On Hiddink's appointment as first team manager until the end of the season, Terry added: "It's down to him to come in and pick us up. He's seen what we are capable of. The first half was excellent, the second half kind of deflated. What he will bring in is a hunger within the squad, passion and a lot of fire."



■ JOHN Terry and Jose Mourinho in happier times, after winning the Capital One Cup last season

"He will demand a lot from the players, on the training pitch, and in matches.

"He will come in and shake things up in a positive way and we will move forwards, which is why the club made the decision."

Mourinho left Chelsea only one point off the relegation zone after a dismal run that produced four wins, three draws and nine defeats.

What does Terry believe Hiddink, the former Dutch national coach and 2009 Chelsea interim manager, will do to get Blues back up the table?

"If he has been watching our games, he will have seen that we have been lacking confidence and not firing as well as we could have done. This win was a step in the right direction."

SPORT

Thursday, December 24th, 2015

● SPORTS DESK: 07711 169 427

Jose backers turn on players

THE sacking of Jose Mourinho has created a schism between the Chelsea faithful and the players and board that may never be fully healed.

The 2-1 defeat at Leicester City in their last away game encapsulated all that had been going wrong this season.

Mourinho decided that if he was going to be sacked, then he would ensure that the fans knew exactly who he felt was to blame.

His 'players betrayal' comment following the match, in which he explained how his men failed to carry out his instructions to prevent Leicester's goals, will be seen as the final nail in his coffin before he was sacked last Thursday afternoon.

Social media went into meltdown when the news was leaked – the club's website was caught out, only putting their statement out 45 minutes after the whole football world knew and had made their views known.

When the club also stated that there would be no further announcement until a new appointment was made, up rocked technical director Michael Emenalo

● By LWN reporter Paul Lagan
sport@londonweeklynews.co.uk

on the club's official TV channel.

The Nigerian will forever now be known as the man who refused to name Mourinho when explaining the club's decision to dismiss the Portuguese. Instead, rather ungraciously and perhaps betraying no sympathy for the 52-year-old Mourinho, Emenalo simply referred to him on camera as 'the individual'.

Palpable discord'

He went on to record that it was all the individual's fault while dismissing the notion that the players shared any blame. He stated that there was 'palpable discord' between the manager and players.

However, Mourinho – the most successful manager in Chelsea's 110-year history – hit back at the club, countering their 'mutual consent' statement. He made it perfectly clear that he was sacked – the first time he had left a club against his wishes.



■ OUT in the cold... Jose Mourinho has made it clear that he was sacked Pic: Rob Newell/Digital South



This week at STAMFORD BRIDGE

Saturday's 3-1 victory against lowly Sunderland was played out amid a highly charged and toxic atmosphere at Stamford Bridge.

Such was the paranoia surrounding the occasion, I have it on good authority that club stewards were briefed not to mention Mourinho at all, or express any opinion about him, if asked by supporters.

There was not one picture of Mourinho in the match day programme either. One wonders how long the only image of him – in a team photo on the wall in the concourse of the West Stand – will remain.

An attempt by the club to nip supporters' dissent in the bud, by announcing the appointment of Guus Hiddink as interim manager just before kick-off and planting club legend Didier Drogba between him and Roman Abramovich in the stand, failed miserably as the fans made it perfectly clear who they blamed for the loss of 'The Special One'.

Pre-kick off, when the PA announcer read out the players' names, the fans rounded on Cesc Fabregas and Diego Costa in particular, citing them as the main architects of Mourinho's demise.

When both were substituted in the last 20 minutes, the ire was repeated with greater intensity.

Chelsea beat Sunderland with a scintillating first half performance that yielded two goals in the first 13 minutes, from Branislav Ivanovic and Pedro. Each goal was greeted with an ironic chorus of 'Where were you when you were s***?' and the fans also chanted Mourinho's name by way of celebration.

A third goal, a penalty by the visibly rejuvenated Oscar in the 50th minute, was as good as it got for Blues, who simply collapsed after that. Sunderland's anaemic attack could not fight back – but in-form Watford, who play Chelsea at Stamford Bridge on Boxing Day, won't be so forgiving.

In his two spells in SW6 Mourinho led Chelsea to their first league championship in 50 years and added two more Premier League titles (the last one just seven months ago), plus one FA Cup, three League Cups and the Community Shield.

So what did club captain John Terry make of the furor?

"It's been a tough few days, for sure," admitted the 35-year old.

And quashing Emenalo's trite assertion that the players were blameless, Terry accepted that it was much more complex than that.

"Obviously I'm gutted that the manager's gone," he said. "We, the players, feel responsible for that. We are not hiding away from that fact. I'm delighted that we put in a really good performance and picked up the three points."

"The fans showed their loyalty for Jose Mourinho. Obviously, disappointment as well in a lot of them, and rightly so because of what he has achieved at the club. We have to kind of stand up to that and be counted."

"It was going to be tough for us, individually and collectively, but I thought we put in a really good performance. More importantly, we desperately had to pick up three points regardless."

Ready for backlash

Terry was aware of what could be expected from the stands and suggested that the players were ready for the backlash.

"We spoke on Friday about us staying together," he revealed. "All of us in the dressing room, sticking together through these times – not just today or tomorrow, but over the next five or six months – and getting ourselves back up the league table."

"Unfortunately, the manager's head is on the block, he loses his job and we, collectively, have to take responsibility for that, which we have done."

"Lots of players have come out before that Champions League game (v Porto). I came out in the press conference and said we were underperforming."

■ Continued on page 27



Focus on Craven Cottage

By TONY McDONALD

Fulham go on bearing big gifts

CHRISTMAS comes but once a year but the Fulham defence has been handing out lavish gifts all season. They were in typically generous mood again on Saturday at Bolton Wanderers, where they should have won, could easily have lost and ended up drawing 2-2.

Not that you will find much 'ho, ho, ho!' bonhomie among Whites fans who are growing increasingly frustrated and angry at the club's failure to appoint a full-time manager some six weeks after Kit Symons was deemed surplus to requirements.

Peter Grant, the first interim manager, was unable to solve Fulham's defensive crisis and now Stuart Gray, the senior coach brought in by chief football officer Mike Rigg with the specific aim of eliminating these obvious frailties, is the latest one scratching his head in bewilderment.

His first two matches while holding the reins have resulted in 2-2 draws. But both the Brentford home game and the visit to Bolton could easily have ended 4-4.

That's the crazy thing about Fulham. They are the Championship's leading scorers with 36 goals – three more than the top two,

Middlesbrough and Derby County (their next opponents, this Saturday), have after 22 games.

As football coaches will tell you, the most difficult feat in the game is scoring goals, which is why the best strikers come at a hefty price.

So instead of languishing in 18th position, four places and six points above the drop zone, Fulham should be contesting a top six berth.

By contrast, coaching defenders to shut out opponents in an organised, efficient manner is meant to be simpler. Press, block, tackle, concentrate, position yourself properly and be brave under pressure... are all fundamental requirements of defending.

Worst defensive record

And yet while Fulham are the second tier's leading scorers, they have the worst defensive record, having conceded 39 – six more than the bottom-placed side who put a couple past them on Saturday.

Before Fulham visited debt-laden Bolton, the 'Trotters' had managed just one win in 21 league matches and the club admitted it had not paid its players their wages for November.

It is too easy, however, to blame all of Fulham's defensive woes on the back four and goalkeeper. It's a collective problem, because they continually defend poorly as a team. Defending begins at the front, through hard-working midfielders. Midfielders need to track back, mark tightly and close down space.

But Fulham are too open and easy to play against, allowing too many crosses into their penalty area. Whoever eventually takes charge – former Watford manager Slavisa Jokanovic was the latest frontrunner as LWN went to press – desperately needs to find the right balance between attack and defence.

After Luke Garbutt had put Whites in front at Bolton with a low, drilled strike from the edge of the box, Alexander Kačaniklić hit the bar and Moussa Dembélé shot wide of the target when through on goal as Fulham tried to put the game to bed.

After the restart Kačaniklić was denied by keeper Ben Amos when in one-on-one, before Bolton netted twice through Zach Clough.

A brilliant free-kick from Ross McCormack late on earned his side a point, although he later rattled the woodwork in stoppage time.